

# The Liongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2831.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER

## Banks.

THE NEW ORIENTAL BANK  
CORPORATION, LIMITED.

AUTHORISED CAPITAL ..... £2,000,000.

PAID-UP CAPITAL ..... £80,000.

LONDON:

Head Office ..... 40, Threadneedle Street.

West End Office ..... 25, Cockspur Street.

BRANCHES IN INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN  
AND THE COLONIES.

THE BANK receives MONEY ON DEPOSIT,

Buys and Sells BILLS OF EXCHANGE,

Issues LETTERS OF CREDIT, forwards BILLS for

COLLECTION, and Transacts Banking and

Agency Business generally, on terms to be had

on application.

INTEREST ALLOWED ON DEPOSITS:

Fixed for 12 months, 5 per Cent. per Annum.

" " " "

ON CURRENT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

3 per Cent. per Annum on the Daily Balance.

E. W. RUTTER,  
Manager.

## Intimations.

### KELLY & WALSH, LTD.

AYRE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS  
BALLS of 18: manufacture.

Salter's Black Gut Tennis Bats.

Slasenger's "The Demon" and "Special Demon  
Bat."

Lawn Tennis Presses.

Tape Measures for making out Courts.

A fine selection of Dog Collars.

New Menu Tablets.

Plain and Gilt Edge Squeezers.

Dougherty's Indicator Cards.

Cheap Playing Cards for Clubs.

Foster's Self Teaching Whist Cards, by means

of which any one may acquire not only a

knowledge of the game, but a proficient

Scientific player.

Poker Chips and Counters.

Whist Markers.

### SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES.

KELLY & WALSH, LTD.,  
QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL, HONGKONG.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1891.

## Insurances.

EXAMPLES OF THE COST  
OF ASSURANCE TO A MAN AGED 30  
NEXT BIRTHDAY.

£1,000 STG. payable at death, would  
cost per quarter at the rate of

£6 18 0 (a) If premiums are payable for  
whole of life.

or £9 11 6 (b) If premiums are limited to so  
years.

or £11 4 6 (c) If premiums are limited to 15  
years.

or £13 0 0 (d) If the sum Assured is made  
payable at age 50, or at  
death if previous.

\* Secured payments.

THE same provisions if commenced at age 40

n. b. would cost respectively (a) £8 15 0,

(b) £11 5 0, (c) £13 2 4, (d) £17 0 0 per quarter.

ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,  
Agents,

STANDARD LIFE OFFICE

SOUTH BRITISH FIRE AND MARINE  
INSURANCE COMPANY OF  
NEW ZEALAND.

THE Undersigned are prepared to accept  
FIRE and MARINE INSURANCES on  
favourable terms.

Current rates and a guaranteed Bonus equal  
to that paid by the local Offices.

GEORGE R. STEVENS & CO.,  
Agents.

No. 2, Queen's Road, Hongkong.

Hongkong, 31st March, 1891.

THE TOKYO MARINE INSURANCE  
COMPANY, LIMITED,  
OF TOKYO.

SUBSCRIBED CAPITAL ..... £1,200,000.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed  
Agents to accept first class  
HULL RISKS at CURRENT RATES.

GEO. R. STEVENS & CO.,  
Hongkong, 1st April, 1891.

GENERAL LIFE AND FIRE  
ASSURANCE COMPANY IN  
LONDON.

THE Undersigned having been appointed  
Agents for the above Company, are prepared  
to ACCEPT RISKS against FIRE and  
LIFE at Current Rates.

REUTTER, BROCKELMANN & CO.,  
Hongkong, 1st July, 1891.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE  
SOCIETY OF THE  
UNITED STATES.

RUSSELL & CO.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 14th November, 1890.

NOTICE.

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY  
LIMITED.

CAPITAL SUBSCRIBED ..... £1,000,000.

The above Company is prepared to accept  
MARINE RISKS at CURRENT RATES on Goods,  
etc. Policies granted to all Parts of the world  
payable at any of its Agencies.

WOO LIN YUEN,  
Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE,  
No. 2, QUEEN'S ROAD WEST.

Hongkong, 1st February, 1892.

GENERAL NOTICE.

THE ON TAI INSURANCE COMPANY,  
(LIMITED).

CAPITAL, TAELS 600,000. £835,333.33

EQUAL TO ..... £835,333.33

RESERVE FUND ..... £835,000.00.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEX SING, Esq. LO YEEU MOON, Esq.

LOU TSO SHU, Esq.

MANAGER.—HO AMEL.

MARINE RISKS on GOODS, etc., taken  
at CURRENT RATES to all parts of the  
world.

HEAD OFFICE, 8 & 9, PRAYA WEST.

Hongkong, 17th December, 1891.

NOTICE.

A SPECIAL Session of Her Majesty's  
Justices of the Peace will be held in the  
Justices' Room, at the Magistracy, at ELEVEN  
O'CLOCK in the Forenoon of TUESDAY, the 1st  
day of May, A.D. 1891, for the purpose of  
considering an application from one ROBERT  
ISHERWOOD, for a licence to sell and retail  
intoxicating liquors in a certain building at  
Victoria Gap, to be named THE MOUNT AVENUE  
HOTEL.

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Police Magistrate.

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knowledge of the game, but a proficient

Scientific player.

Poker Chips and Counters.

Whist Markers.

## Consignees.

"MOGUL" LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

STEAMSHIP "PATHAN,"  
FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL, MIDDLEBROOK AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed

that all goods are being landed at their risk  
into the Godowns of the Kowloon Wharf  
and Godown Company, at Kowloon, whence  
and/or from the wharves delivery may be  
obtained.

Optional cargo will be forwarded unless notice  
to the contrary be given before NOON, TO-

MORROW.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods  
have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining  
undelivered after the 1st pror, will be subject to  
rent.

All claims against the Steamer must be pre-  
sented to the Undersigned on or before the 1st  
pror, or they will not be recognized.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by  
ADAMSON, BELL & CO.,  
Agents.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1891. [599]

## Shipping.

### STEAMERS.

STEAM TO STRAITS AND BOMBAY,  
(Calling at Colombo if sufficient Indemnity  
offers).

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship

"NIZAM,"

Captain G. Langhorne, will leave for the above  
places on MONDAY, the 1st May, at NOON.

E. L. WOODIN,  
Superintendent.

Hongkong, 28th April, 1891. [640]

NAVIGATION GENERALE ITALIANA  
(FLORIO AND RUBATTINO  
UNITED COMPANIES),

STEAM FOR,  
SINGAPORE, PENANG AND BOMBAY,  
having connexion with Company's Mail  
Steamers to ADRIAN, SUEZ, PORT SAID,  
MESSINA, NAPLES (LEGHORN), and  
GENOA; all MEDITERRANEAN, ADRIATIC,  
LEVANTINE, and SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS  
up to CALMAC. Taking cargo at through  
rates to CALMAC and BAGDAD.

THE Company's Steamship

"BORMIDA,"

C. Gavazzo, Master, will be despatched as above  
on TUESDAY, the 5th May, at NOON.

At Bombay the Steamers are discharging in  
Victoria Dock.

For further particulars regarding Freight and  
Passage, apply to CARLOWITZ & CO.,

Hongkong, 29th April, 1891. [602]

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,  
LIMITED.

FOR PORT DARWIN, QUEENSLAND  
PORTS, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

THE Company's Steamship

"CHINGTU,"

A Hunt, Commander, will be despatched as  
above on THURSDAY, the 7th May.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the  
Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer.  
First Class Saloon and Cabins are situated forward  
of the Engines. Second Class Passengers are  
berthed in the Poop. A Refrigerating  
Chamber ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions  
during the entire voyage. A duly qualified  
Surgeon is carried.

Intimations.

DAKIN BROS. OF CHINA,  
L I M I T E D,  
DISPENSING CHEMISTS, &c.

CHEMISTS AND AERATED WATER  
MANUFACTURERS.

DAKIN'S

SELTZER WATER.

CONTAINS THE TRUE SELTZER SALTS.  
Makes a more palatable drink with spirits  
than Soda Water.

NO LOWERING TENDENCY.

IN LARGEST SIZE BOTTLES,  
CENTS 50 PER DOZEN.

(Telephone No. 60.)

No. 22 & 24, QUEEN'S ROAD CENTRAL.  
Hongkong, 13th April, 1891. [37]



BY APPOINTMENT.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.  
ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.  
MANUFACTURERS OF AERATED  
WATERS.

Our New Factory has been recently refitted  
with automatic Steam Machinery of the  
latest and most approved kind, and  
we are well able to compete in  
quality with the best  
English Makers.

The purest ingredients only are used, and the  
utmost care and cleanliness are exercised  
in the manufacture throughout.

LARGE BOMBAY  
"SODAS"

We continue to supply large bottles as  
heretofore, free of Extra Charge, to those of  
our Customers who prefer to have them to the  
ordinary size.

COAST PORT ORDERS,  
whenever practicable, are despatched by first  
steamer leaving after receipt of order.

FOR COAST PORTS. Waters are packed and  
placed on board ship at Hongkong prices, and  
the full amount allowed for Packages and Empties  
when received in good order.

Counterfoil Order Books supplied on applica-  
tion.

Our Registered Telegraphic Address is,  
"DISPENSARY, HONG KONG,"  
And all signed messages addressed thus  
will receive prompt attention.

The following is a List of Waters always  
kept ready in Stock:—

PURE AERATED WATERS

SODA WATER

LEMONADE

POTASH WATER

SELTZER WATER

LITHIA WATER

SARSAFARILLA WATER

TONIC WATER

GINGER ALE

GINGERADE.

No Credit given for bottles that look dirty,  
or greasy, or that appear to have been used  
for any other purpose than that of Containing  
Aerated Water, as such bottles are never used  
again by us.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED,  
Hongkong, China, and Manila.

[5]

MARRIAGE.

At Shanghai, on the 25th April, at the British  
Consulate-General, and afterwards at the Union  
Church, by Rev. T. R. Stevenson. THOMAS  
EDWIN TRUMAN to AMY ELIZA SAYLE.

DEATH.

At Hankow, on the 21st April, WILLIAM  
FORBES, second son of late Dr. Hugh Sharp,  
of Cullen, Banffshire, Scotland, aged 45 years.

TELEGRAMS.

there was a good deal too much twaddle  
about "moral slavery," yearning for liberty  
to attend Divine service, and so on. The  
great want was for a day to recreate, for  
officers and men to lie back and forget  
about bills of lading for once, and to  
associate with their friends in the way  
other men do. On the other hand the  
Chamber of Commerce people, invested  
as they were (the phrase is Captain  
Ashurst's) with heathenish surroundings,  
talked the most arrant rubbish imaginable  
when they pretended that to lay the ships  
up on Sunday would knock the bottom  
out of all local trade, and reduce the  
Colony to ruin, not to speak  
of the cheek of the officers in ever thinking  
of such a thing. It was a case of British  
interests, and nothing better. Sir G. W.  
B. Vaux has not lost his grip of things  
so entirely as to ignore this, and he has  
solved the question to-day in a crisp little  
Ordinance that the Chamber of Commerce  
ought to have framed and hung up in their  
consulting room at the City Hall.

With respect to the latest crusade against  
the gambling-house keepers there is not  
much to be said that is new, save and except  
to the brief expression of opinion from  
his Excellency in respect to the Totalisator.

Governor Sir G. W. Vaux is not very consistent  
in some things—he has not been in respect  
to this gambling question—but he got right  
home when he declared that the Totalisator  
could not be countenanced at any future  
race-meetings, any more—in fact less than

the establishment of a *posse* shanty in the  
paddock. He said what we have repeatedly  
asserted in these columns, and he spoke  
just about as feelingly. Whilst expunging  
a clause which would have practically  
justified a raid on any club or private  
house where the limit on a quiet game  
was anything over a dollar, he shewed an  
unmistakable determination to make no  
race distinctions in suppressing this all-  
pervading vice of gambling, and we  
rather fancy that one or two ears at that  
same Council-board must have tingled a  
trifle when his Excellency was painfully  
expressing his rather pronounced senti-  
ments on the subject. There will be a  
valuable Totalisator, "whose owner is  
giving up business," for sale when this Bill  
becomes law, and the proceedings at the  
next meeting of that sadly degenerate body  
which calls itself the Hongkong Jockey  
Club, and arrogates to itself more power  
than a Council of Ten, will be very  
interesting. It is perhaps unnecessary to  
add that no new bill was required to  
exterminate the totalisator; the existing  
law is quite sufficient to meet all require-  
ments, but on our annual gala days the  
police have discreetly been blind to all  
sorts of gambling, in which Chinese and  
foreigners were equally implicated, and we  
are not aware that any very serious  
consequences have ever resulted from this  
special indulgence. It is possible to have  
too much repressive legislation, and we  
are rather inclined to the opinion that the  
limit has been greatly exceeded in this  
new Hongkong Gambling Ordinance.

THE REPLY TO MR. WHITEHEAD.

His Excellency—I had prepared for this  
Council a speech on the condition and prospects  
of the colony, but as the very urgent representa-  
tions of my medical adviser reluctantly com-  
pelled me to the belief that I was not in a  
position to bear the strain of delivering it, I sent  
it yesterday to the Press, and a copy of it is laid  
on the table.

REPORTS, &c.

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the  
table a report on the operations of the Public  
Works for 1890; a despatch from the Secretary of  
State with reference to the Military Contribution  
in reply to the Memorial on behalf of the Council  
sent in December last; the Harbour Master's  
report for 1890; the returns of superior and  
subordinate Courts for 1890; and the returns of  
births and deaths in the Colony for the same  
year.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DISRESPECTFUL.

Mr. Ryrie, pursuant to notice, asked his  
Excellency if, when he asked me at the meeting  
of Council on 25th March last if the protest I  
had laid on the table, was a respectful protest,  
he meant to imply that I was likely to present,  
or the unofficial members to concur in, a protest  
that was not perfectly respectful?

His Excellency—One of the rules of this  
Council is that any protest must be couched in  
respectful terms; it was therefore impossible for  
me to accept it until I knew that it was in  
respectful terms, not that I meant to imply by  
any means that it was likely to be in any but  
respectful terms, but I think I had every reason  
to believe from the hon. members' demeanour at  
the time that he did not think so either.

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

Mr. Ryrie—My next question is—Will the  
honourable the Colonial Treasurer state if the  
arrears of the Military Contribution for the year  
1890, payment of which was authorized by this  
Council on the 19th March last, has been paid,  
and if paid, on what date, or date, it, or any portion  
of it, was paid, and if so upon what  
authority.

His Excellency—I will answer the question  
myself. The equivalent to £20,000 was paid on  
my warrant into the military chest. On the 24th  
February a telegram was received from the  
Secretary of State requesting immediate payment of  
the money; he had then had before him the  
reasons against the vote of this money that were  
urged the passing of the Estimates for 1891 on  
this telegram; therefore evidently conveyed the  
deliberate decision of her Majesty's Government  
after giving the matter full consideration.

After myself giving the matter my best  
attention by the light thrown on it in the  
Secretary of State's despatches and elsewhere,  
and after arriving at the conviction—which every  
day tends to strengthen—that the payment  
was a right one, however unfortunate the  
circumstances under which the demand was  
made, it would, under ordinary circumstances,  
have been my duty to at once summon a meeting  
of Council for the purpose of passing it, but for  
a condition to hold a meeting of Council at all,  
and, feeling that I ought not to leave to others the  
invidious task, I ordered its immediate  
deferral, and, I did so entirely, on my own  
responsibility.

A FAIRLY large audience patronised the Assault-  
army give by the Lorne Athlete Club at the  
City Hall lasting evening. The various items  
of the programme were cleverly performed and  
merited the constant plaudits given to the  
performers.

A CATECHISM.

Mr. Whitehead, pursuant to notice, put the  
following questions:—

1. Will the Government lay on the table a  
report on the present state of the Tyam Reser-  
voir and state—

(a) the quantity of water in the Reservoir on  
1st August last;

(b) the quantity delivered daily through the  
tunnel;

(c) the estimated flow into the Reservoir  
between 1st August last and now;

(d) the quantity now left in the Reservoir;

(e) the cause of the difference, if any, between  
the quantity passed out of the Reservoir as  
shown by its contents then and now,  
including estimated flow into it, and the  
quantity delivered through the tunnel.

2. Is there a leak in the Tyam Reservoir  
dam, if so what is the nature of the leak, and if  
there is leakage, what is the estimated cost of  
making the Reservoir watertight.

3. Presuming that the Reservoir was full what  
is the estimated quantity of water which would  
be lost per diem by the leakage if there be any.

Will the Government lay on the table a  
complete statement of the cost to date  
of the Tyam Reservoir and works connected  
therewith, including the Service Reservoir; and  
also a statement of the cost of the works to date  
for the distribution of the Tyam Water.

4. Does the Government Notification No. 130  
of 28th March last refer to Covenants in Leases  
granted before the year 1883 or to leases of

DURING a religious *festa* at Laog, in the North  
Ilocos province of the Philippines, on the 21st  
inst., a fire broke out in a temporary theatre in  
which were some eight hundred natives. Nearly  
fifty of them—mostly children—were either  
crushed, suffocated, or burnt to death.

LAST night the Electric Light Company added  
fourteen new lights to their street illuminations;  
namely, four at the Cricket Ground, four at  
Wanchai Market, four in the vicinity of Govern-  
ment House, and two on the Praya—in addition  
to their other lights in those districts. A trial  
of the new lights was made during the afternoon  
and when, at 6.30 p.m., the electric current was  
sent through the Company's circuits, the new  
lamps shed a steady brilliant light throughout  
the entire night. We hear that the Company  
are about to fit up some of the local coast steam-  
ship companies' vessels with the new illumination,  
as also some of the hotels and merchants' houses,

agreements for Leases issued subsequent to that  
date.

7. Will the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer  
lay on the table a statement of—

(a) The particulars of the Expenditure under  
the head of Miscellaneous Services in the  
Statement of Receipts and Payments for  
1890.

(b) The assessed taxes refunded for void or  
empty houses in the years 1888, 1889, and  
1890, and

(c) The assessed taxes for first quarter of 1889,  
of 1890, and of 1891, and the taxes refunded  
for void or empty houses in each of these  
quarters.

8. Will the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer  
give the Council some information regarding the  
various items aggregating Millions of Dollars  
under the head of Receipts and Payments in  
the Statement dated 6th inst., and laid before  
Council on 10th inst? and further,

An explanation as to the decrease in Expenditure  
against the name of the Post Master General  
appears in said Statement under the heads of  
Establishments and Services exclusive of  
Establishments.

9. If the full Military Contribution of £40,000  
for 1890 had been paid before or after 31st Decem-  
ber last would there not have been a deficiency  
in revenue as compared with actual Expenditure  
1890 and if so how much would have been the  
deficiency.

10. Will the Government lay upon the table  
the papers and Correspondence relating to the  
closing of the thoroughfare leading from Arsenal  
Strait Eastward at any the Praya, now blasted  
to carriage traffic since November last, to the  
great inconvenience of the public and state  
when there is any probability of the road being  
again opened to traffic.

11. Has the attention of the Government been  
called to the leading articles in the *Daily Press*  
of the 17th March and *China Mail* of the 20th  
last referring to the unsatisfactory state of  
Queen's Road Central, and will the Honorable  
the Surveyor General state what steps are being  
taken to put it in proper order.

12. Have the Government issued any instruc-  
tions recently for the more stringent enforcement  
of the Opium Ordinance 1887 and for the more  
frequent examination of Opium Godowns.

If such instructions have been issued it has  
been done on the application of a complaint of the  
Chinese Government or of the Officers of that  
Government.

13. With reference to His Excellency The  
Governor's statement in Council on 18th Decem-  
ber, 1890, viz.: "It was given to understand last  
year, in consideration of our having under-  
taken the work of the Gap, Rock Light, the  
Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs would  
undertake the Lighthouse on Waylan," will the  
Government state whether the Chinese Gov-  
ernment have commenced the erection of the  
very necessary Lighthouse on Waylan, and if  
not when operations are likely to be commenced?

The Acting Colonial Secretary laid on the  
table a report on the operations of the Public  
Works for 1890; a despatch from the Secretary of  
State with reference to the Military Contribution  
in reply to the Memorial on behalf of the Council  
sent in December last; the Harbour Master's  
report for 1890; the returns of superior and  
subordinate Courts for 1890; and the returns of  
births and deaths in the Colony for the same  
year.

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read  
and confirmed.

THE REPLY TO MR. WHITEHEAD.

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Council a speech on the condition and prospects  
of the colony, but as the very urgent representa-  
tions of my medical adviser reluctantly com-  
pelled me to the belief that I was not in a  
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# THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

No. 8 of 20th January, 1890, I laid down the general principle that the Colonies, so far as their means allow, should provide the whole cost of their land defence.

4. It must also not be forgotten that the strength and the cost of the garrison have considerably risen since the contribution of £20,000 a year was fixed in 1863, with the intention of increasing it at the end of five years, an intention which was never carried out. In that year the garrison consisted of 1,000 of all ranks, and its cost was £100,000, whereas the garrison now present in Hongkong, according to the latest returns, is 1,700 of all ranks, and the cost is about one hundred and eighty thousand pounds (£180,000).

The estimated revenue of the Colony for 1891 is £2,052,000 dollars, or more than three times the revenue of 1863. In my Despatch of 20th January, 1890, the charge of £40,000 was estimated to amount to 17 per cent. of the revenue of 1888, but owing to the subsequent growth of the revenue and the appreciation in the value of silver, the charge now only represents about 14 per cent. of revenues as against 16 per cent. when the contribution of 1863 was fixed.

Under these circumstances Her Majesty's Government do not consider that any grounds exist for delaying the payment of the full contribution of £100,000.

I take this opportunity of informing you with reference to paragraph 8 of Mr. Fleming's Despatch No. 82 of 1st April, 1890, that it is proposed to raise the Indian Battalion for service at Hongkong from among the Mahomedans of Upper India, and steps are being taken to organise the corps as soon as may be practicable.

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble Servant,  
K. Kewick.

KNUTSFORD.

## SOCIETE FRANCAISE DES CHARDONNAGES DU TONKIN.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of this Company was held this afternoon at the offices, Victoria Buildings. There were present—Messrs. Bayler, Chaufour, J. J. Kewick, H. N. Mody, (Directors); T. I. Rose, A. Shelton, Hooper, J. S. Ezekiel, P. Jordan, W. H. Gaskell, J. B. Coughtrie, T. E. Davies, S. S. Benjamin, S. I. Danby, S. E. Levy, R. M. Moses, Dorobai Nowroji, J. S. Moses and R. B. Joyce (Secretary).

Mr. Kewick moved and Mr. Mody seconded that Mr. Bayler, Chaufour take the chair, which was agreed to.

The Chairman declared that there were 22 shareholders present, representing 5,547 shares, entitling them to 199 votes. In accordance with French law, Messrs. Kewick and Mody as the largest shareholders present, were invited to act as scrutators of these figures. The meeting was then declared open.

The Chairman read the following report—

### REPORT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

This time again we could hardly present anything but accounts of expenses and in fact it could scarcely be otherwise if you will consider that we are deeply engaged with the execution of the great works proved indispensable for the achievement of our organisation which depends to a great extent the future of our company.

Since the report which we had the honour of presenting to you at our last ordinary meeting on the 1st of May 1890 these works have taken a very considerable extent and if nothing comes across their regular progress they will soon lead us towards the period of production so ardently desired by all of us and expected by you with a patience which, I hasten to say, has proved a source of strength to us. As a matter of fact, yielding to the numerous requests which have been made to us we might have already proceeded with the sale of our coal, as it was being produced, but, on the other hand the difficulties of communication with the port of Hongkong would have prevented us from marking such sales in a continuous way or to a large extent and thus it was certainly proper to wait in patience and to take first of all the necessary steps in order to overcome these difficulties—on the other hand, strong in the feeling of your approval we did not care to put our production on the market before being certain that it was of good quality. This point is now settled and the trials made admit of the hope that our combustible may face a competition with other produce. The line of conduct followed so far has therefore enabled us to concentrate all our efforts on the achievement of our works of installation and afterwards to arrive at the places of consumption with regular supplies of a quality able to give satisfaction. We shall no doubt not have to regret it. At the last extraordinary meeting of shareholders of 2nd September 1890 you have authorised the issue of debentures to the extent of £600,000 Dollars. We have so far proceeded with two issues, both covered, and the third and last one will take place shortly. Thanks to these fresh resources, we have been able to extend our mining works, to complete our plant and especially to ensure the means of transporting and embarking our produce. At the head of this programme we placed of course the construction of a railway which will connect the mines with the port of shipping and of a large wharf which will be able to grant access to steamers of a large tonnage. Having called for offers both from England and France for the supply of the whole railway plant we have been obliged, owing to the terms for delivery, to accept the offers which have been made to us from London, after having obtained from the Governor General his kind assurance that this special plant, so utterly necessary for our future progress, would be allowed to enter duty free. As for our wharf, the contracts have been made by us, as well, for the supply of the timber required as for the construction itself. All these works are now pushed with great activity by our technical staff, I have much pleasure in stating it, and as soon as they will be finished we shall be able to commence shipping in a regular manner and to ensure that we hope, the final success of our enterprise.

The Chairman then called on Mr. Champin to read the following—

### AUDITOR'S REPORT.

As was the case last year the accounts presented to you by the Board of Directors can be nothing but accounts of expenses. Some of these accounts may seem somewhat high to those of you who have not been out to see the considerable works which have been executed during the year, but the opportunity of conceiving the difficulties arising out of the first working contracts, always very expensive in a new country. However, the report presented to you is perfectly correct and the balance sheets which I have examined carefully are in conformity with the books. While adding gentlemen that the Board of Directors decline as they did last year to take advantage of the chance of the articles of association, granting them an allowance of £5,000, I beg to propose to you to adopt the report and to approve of the accounts.

The Chairman then stated that there was a very long report from M. Durand, technical manager, which could be read, unless the meeting considered it sufficient to send it to the newspapers.

On the motion of Mr. Kewick seconded by Mr. Mody it was decided to send it to the papers.

The Chairman said, I have nothing much to add, what has already been said. The works are progressing favourably, and of course gradually

have not gone on so quickly as you might have expected and wished, but we have had to face very great difficulties in opening up our work, as is always the case in a new country. It is my duty from time to time to go to the spot and investigate what has been done, and I shall be very pleased to reply to any questions put to the chair. If you would like to look at the plans of the mines, they will be in the offices for inspection.

There being no question the Chairman moved the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Kewick seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman announced that in accordance with clause 17 of the Articles of Association two of the directors retired. The lot fell to Mr. Chater and Mr. Keswick, who on the motion of Mr. J. S. Moses seconded by Mr. Rose were re-elected.

Under Article 30 the auditor, M. Champin, retired and on the motion of Mr. Hooper seconded by Mr. Ezekiel, was re-elected.

Mr. Coughtrie moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried by acclamation.

The Chairman briefly acknowledged the honour, saying that he was very thankful to the shareholders approved of his conduct. All he could say was that he had done his utmost to deserve it, and should continue working to the best of his ability in order to ensure the welfare of the Company.

The report of M. Durand, which is too long for publication *in extenso*, is to the following effect—

The exploitation of the Company's property has shown such valuable resources that the preliminary work, installation of plant, etc., had to be on a larger scale than at first intended. This accounts for the delay in achieving practical results. During this year coal will be extracted from the Nagotna mine, and early next year the great wharf and Haton railway will be finished. Production will then develop freely. At the Nagotna mine the upper seams are inferior in quality, but the lower promise well, as to quantity and quality. The Nagotna mine gives a total thickness of about 30 meters of coal, and a length of 2000 meters has been pierced in the last seven months, and 2200 in all. The total available tonnage is estimated at 40 millions. At the Campha, Marguerite, and Haton mines less has been done, but prospects are good. The report also gives long detailed accounts of the progress and future of the work at the mines, railway and the depot at Hongkay.

### A JAPANESE OFFICER ARRESTED.

#### SKETCHING OUR FORTS.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. Wise, Sub-lieutenant Okuda, of the Japanese cruiser *Kongo*, was charged with sketching Belcher's Battery yesterday afternoon, contrary to Section of Ordinance of 1883. The Japanese Consul, Mr. Miyakawa Kinjirō, and Captain Willoughby, R.E., occupied seats on the Bench.

Bombardier J. H. Stokes, R.A., said that about 3.15 p.m. yesterday, whilst in charge of Belcher's Battery, he saw the defendant sketching on the Pokfulam Road. He went up to him and asked him what he was doing and he said he was sketching the road and hill-side. Witness asked for the sketch, and defendant produced it. (The sketch which was made in a pocket book was produced, showing the magazine of Belcher's Battery and the roads).

In answer to the charge, the defendant said he was walking along Pokfulam Road, when he came across a very fine view. He was fond of sketching, and he set to work to draw the scene when Stokes came up to him. He made the sketch in pure ignorance of the law, and had only done so for pleasure; had he wished to do a silly sketch of the place he would not have gone there in uniform, as he did.

In answer to his Worship, Inspector Mackie said the defendant was released on bail in a sum of £200.

His Worship said he had no doubt the defendant had contravened the Ordinance, but he was also of opinion that he did so in ignorance of the law. He would remand the case till to-morrow.

Mr. Miyakawa Kinjirō, the Japanese Consul, said the defendant had a witness whom he would like to call.

Lieut. Marchalima, of the Japanese cruiser *Kongo*, gave evidence in support of the defendant's statement.

Bombardier Stokes, recalled, said the last witness had offered him £2 to say nothing further about it, but he refused to take it.

Lieut. Marchalima denied the allegation.

His Worship said he would remand the case till to-morrow, allowing the defendant out on the same bail as before.

THE HALL AND HOLTZ CO-OPERATIVE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this Company was held at the Board room last Saturday morning, Mr. John Morris, Chairman, presiding. There was a large attendance.

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen.—A quorum being present we will proceed with the business of this meeting, to receive and consider the profit and loss account and the balance sheet, the report of the Directors and of the Auditor for the past year, and to elect Directors and Auditor for the current year. Gentlemen, it is the falling off in profits that needs looking into; all other matters are comparatively less important. We have gained about £4,000 by better exchange rates this year, but against this advantage may be put the loss entailed in carrying on the two Brewery premises, double rentals and nearly double staff, together with all the expenses of removal, &c., which has certainly absorbed more than the £4,000 exchange benefit.

Mr. Drummond said he would like to ask one or two questions. He represented the interest of Mrs. E. Morris, one of the largest shareholders in the Company, and there were one or two points in the Chairman's answer to Mr. Perkins which struck him as rather singular. He understood him to say that of the sum of 8000 old tins under the head of Sundry Expenses there is a sum of Tls. 92,60, which appears to be the cost of the liquor consumed in that department by the staff. He would like to ask whether this was so, and whether the Company provides the whole of the liquor consumed, and whether that is a small cost for the liquor, and also whether every kind of liquor is consumed by the staff at the expense of the Company.

Mr. Short replied on behalf of the Directorate that since he had been connected with the Hall and Holtz Co-operative Company, a period of 30 years, it had always been the custom to give liquors to such people as trading friends in the exports, officers of vessels doing business with the Company, who generally when they come ashore look forward to having a glass of something in the store. About a thousand customers come into the store every month, of whom 300 or 400 hundred are well known, and if any of these customers ever ask for a drink he always had it.

A lengthened argument took place subsequently, and finally, on the motion of Mr. R. E. Wainwright, seconded by Mr. Drummond, the meeting was adjourned without transacting any business till 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 15th proximo.

The report was as follows:—

The Directors now submit to the shareholders the audited accounts and balance sheet for the year ended 28th February, 1891.

The net profit for the year—after deducting all charges—(including interest paid and due on debentures, etc., making ample provision for bad and doubtful debts, paying all the formation charges of the Hongkong Trading Company, Limited, and returning 5 per cent. to contributors of business) amount to £15,287.70.

*Profit and Loss Account.*—The balance at the credit, including this year's net profit aforementioned, amounts to Tls. 26,400.00, which the Directors recommend should be disposed of as follows:—

To declare a Dividend of Tls. 1 per cent.

share ..... Tls. 6,000.00

" write off Property Account ..... 16,499.00

" carry forward the balance of ..... 4,000.00

Tls. 26,400.00

*Empire Brewery.*—The new plant was erected during the past summer, and is now in full working order, enabling the Company to accept larger consignments than it has hitherto been possible to do. The balance at the credit of the profit and loss account, including the net profit for the year, has been removed to more suitable premises than were occupied last year and is now progressing slowly. The Empire Brewery's new plant is in working order and turning out excellent beer in considerably larger quantities than formerly. The result so far is satisfactory and promises to realise the expectations formed when the improvements were made.

The lease of the old premises is in Seward Road expiring in December last.

year, is Tls. 26,400.00, which the Directors recommend should be disposed of as follows:—Dividend Tls. 1 per share, Tls. 6,000; written off property account 16,499.00; carry forward 4,000. The necessity of declaring a dividend to comply with our Articles of Association can be set aside if you wish and the funds be otherwise disposed of in paying off an additional amount of debentures during the year. The sooner we get rid of this debt the better. The present state of business is not sufficiently remunerative to pay both 7 per cent. interest on the preference loan and large dividends. One hundred debentures were drawn and paid off in August last, and interest is paid to the 28th February 1891. The Directors retire in accordance with the Articles of Association, except Messrs. Short and Dyer, Messrs. Clifford, Nolling, and Morris are eligible for re-election. Mr. Walker is absent from Shanghai. One other shareholder whose name will shortly be before the meeting is a candidate for a seat on the Board. Mr. Geo. Corner offers himself for re-election as Auditor. Before asking you to adopt the report and accounts as issued we will be glad to hear your comments thereon and give any further information in our power.

Mr. Perkins asked for details of the expenses

under the head of Sundries Account.

The Chairman gave the figures of the different

items under that head, such as house expenses,

stamps, etc., which amounted in all to Tls.

8,157.15.

Mr. Umby asked if there was any objection to having the accounts connected with the Brewery published separately, as were the accounts of the Hongkong Trading Company.

The Chairman replied that the latter was a separate concern, while the former was not.

The accounts of the Brewery were in the hands of the Secretary, however, and were open to the inspection of shareholders.

Mr. Clifford.—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, whatever feelings of disappointment may exist in our minds as to the accounts, it is important that shareholders should regard this year's trading as exceptional, and not conclude that the earning power of this old established business has been permanently impaired. I am fully aware that I am treading on delicate ground when I criticise the old, fashioned policy that has hitherto guided us in conducting this business, and of course run the risk of being outvoted on any motion that may be submitted to you to-day, in challenging that policy; but I am impelled by a strong sense of duty to be somewhat obtrusive, in order to induce my colleagues to adopt some measures of reform, knowing that agitation will eventually lead to that result, whether I remain in the Company's service or not. I do not in any way wish to disown my joint responsibility as a manager, or shirk any blame that attaches to me in yielding largely to my senior colleagues Messrs. Short and Dyer in former year's trading, but I must take exception to this year's figures. It is unnecessary for me to explain to many here that I have had very little to do with the direction of the Shanghai Store during the past year, my attention having been given (so soon as I recovered from my serious illness in July last) to Brewery and Hongkong affairs. Gentlemen, you will no doubt have noticed in the accounts a falling off in sales of £73,000, or £6,000 a month, and £1,000 less profit. How shall we account for this? Was the year so exceptionally bad, as to break all previous records in upsetting averages, or did the absence of my voice in the control affect the returns? Probably both causes interfered, a little, but I am convinced that the unusual decrease may be mainly traced to my colleagues reverting to the fossilised style of trading of twenty years ago, no enterprise, no advertising, no restless activity, which is a necessity in this business, a laxity of discipline, especially in controlling the abuses of the tasting bar, which unless kept under constant restriction means a loss of nearly a half per cent. on share capital. I could wish that our Chairman had made some reference to the opinions I have persistently expressed at the last three board meetings in favour of immediate reform, instead of diverting your attention by complaints about the mere details of how much money we have received from the Hongkong Trading Co. during the year. Gentlemen, it is the falling off in profits that needs looking into; all other matters are comparatively less important. We have gained about £4,000 by better exchange rates this year, but against this advantage may be put the loss entailed in carrying on the two Brewery premises, double rentals and nearly double staff, together with all the expenses of removal, &c., which has certainly absorbed more than the £4,000 exchange benefit.

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share ..... Tls. 6,000.00

Commercial.

LAST QUOTATION.  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, ex New Issue, 156 per cent, premium, sellers.  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, cum New Issue, 228 per cent, premium, sellers.  
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, New Issue, 314 per cent, premium, sellers.  
Union Insurance Society of Canton—\$95 per share, buyers.  
China Traders' Insurance Company—\$63 per share, buyers.  
North China Insurance—Tls. 275 per share, buyers.  
Canton Insurance Company, Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.  
Yangtze Insurance Association—Tls. 70 per share, nominal.  
On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 150 per share.  
Hongkong Fire Insurance Company—\$315 per share, sellers.  
China Fire Insurance Company—\$82 per share, sellers.  
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company—300 per cent, premium, buyers.  
Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Co.—\$13 per share, sellers.  
China and Manilla Steam Ship Company—120 per share, sellers.  
Hongkong Gas Company—\$131 per share, sellers.  
Hongkong Hotel Company—\$120 per share, buyers.  
Hongkong Hotel Co.'s Six per cent. Debentures—\$60.  
Indo-China Steam Navigation Company, Limited—30 per cent, discount, sellers.  
Douglas Steamship Company—\$48 per share, sellers.  
China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$198 per share, sellers.  
Luzon Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$92 per share, sellers.  
Hongkong Ice Company—\$90 per share, buyers.  
Hongkong and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$75 per share.  
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.  
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited—\$21 per share, buyers.  
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 B—2½ per cent, premium, sellers.  
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 C—5 per cent, premium, buyers.  
Chinese Imperial Loan of 1884 E—14 per cent, premium.  
Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Company, Limited—\$12 per share, ex div., sales and buyers.  
The Hongkong Steam Laundry Co., Limited—\$25 per share, nominal.  
Punjon and Sungalee Dua Samantan Mining Co.—\$2 per share, sellers.  
The Raub Gold Mining Co., Limited—80 cents per share, buyers.  
Imitu Mining Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.  
The Balmoral Gold Mining Co., Limited—\$7 per share, sellers.  
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company—\$70 per share, buyers.  
Tongkoo Coal Mining Co.—\$430 per share, buyers.  
The Hongkong High-Level Tramway Co., Limited—\$65 per share, buyers.  
The East Borneo Planting Co., Limited—\$10 per share, sellers.  
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited—\$48 per share, ex. div., buyers.  
The Songei Koyah Planting Co., Limited—\$130 per share, buyers.  
Cruckshank & Co., Limited—\$35 per share, nominal.  
The Steam Launch Co., Limited—nominal.  
The Austin Arms Hotel and Building Company, Limited—\$13 per share, sellers.  
The China-Borneo Co., Limited—\$16 per share, sellers.  
The Hongkong Brick and Cement Co., Limited—\$12 per share, sellers.  
The Green Island Cement Co.—\$17 per share, sellers.  
The Hongkong Land Investment Co., Limited—\$87 per share, sellers.  
The Hongkong Electric Light Co., Limited—\$6 per share, buyers.  
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited—\$15 per share, sellers.  
The West Point Buildings Co., Limited—\$30 per share, sellers.  
The Peak Hotel and Trading Co., Limited—\$5 per share, sellers.  
The Labuk Planting Co., Limited—\$25 per share, sellers.  
The Lamang Planting Co., Limited—\$7 per share, buyers.  
The Ilelebu Mining and Trading Co., Limited—\$2 per share, buyers.  
The Selama Tin Mining Co., Limited—\$1 per share, sellers.  
The Shameen Hotel Co., Limited—nominal.  
The Kowloon Land Investment Co., Limited—\$15 per share, buyers.  
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—\$15 per share, sellers.  
The Bank of China & Japan & the Straits Ltd.—\$15 per share, sellers.  
The Hongkong Martha, Limited—nominal.  
London and Pacific Petroleum Co., Limited—\$75 per share, buyers.  
The National Bank of China, Ltd.—27 per cent, div., sellers.  
The National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders' shares—\$40 per share, sellers.

EXCHANGE.  
ON LONDON—Bank, T. T. .... 3/4  
Bank Bills, on demand ..... 3/4  
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight ..... 3/4  
Credits at 4 months' sight ..... 3/4  
Demand Bills, at 4 months' sight ..... 3/4  
ON PARIS—  
Bank Bills, on demand ..... 3/4  
Credits, at 4 months' sight ..... 4/4  
On India, T. T. .... 22/4  
On Demand ..... 22/4  
ON SHANGHAI—  
Bank, T. T. .... 7/4  
Private, 30 days' sight ..... 7/4

Shipping.

ARRIVALS.  
MARIE BENO, German bark, 516, L. Hindrichs, 29th April—Singapore 26th March, Timber—Wieland & Co.  
DIAMANT, British steamer, 514, G. A. Taylor, 30th April—Manila 27th April, General—Russell & Co.  
TAISANG, British steamer, 1,503, W. H. Hogg, 30th April—Shanghai 26th April, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.  
PALOS, American gunboat, 420, Lieut.-Comdr. Joseph Marthor, 30th April—Amoy April 28th.  
AUSTRIA, British bark, 1,105, Geo. N. Dakin, 30th April—New York 11th Nov., Kerosene Oil—Order.  
CLEARANCES AT THE HARBOUR OFFICE.  
Don Yuan, Spanish steamer, for Amoy, &c.  
Tongkoo, British steamer, for Swatow, &c.  
Zambo, British steamer, for Nagasaki, &c.  
DEPARTURES.  
April 29, Yunnan, American schooner, 140, T. S. Blackhead & Co.

April 30, Mercury, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.  
April 30, Leander, British cruiser, for Amoy, &c.  
April 30, Severn, British cruiser, for Whampoa.  
April 30, Ly-ss-woon, German str., for Whampoa.  
April 30, Clyde, British str., for Singapore, &c.  
April 30, Carmel, German str., for Chefoo.  
April 30, Zambo, British str., for Nagasaki, &c.  
April 30, Tongkoo, British str., for Swatow, &c.  
April 30, Don Yuan, Spanish str., for Amoy, &c.  
PASSENGERS—ARRIVALS.  
Per Taisang, str., from Shanghai—30 Chinese.  
Per Diamante, str., from Manila—Meissner, C. E. Bertodano, 1 European and 53 Chinese (deck).  
DEPARTED.  
Per Clyde, str., for Singapore—Mrs. Ogle, Mrs. Holloway, Meissner, Schell, and G. Soysabima. For Penang—Mr. J. Timp and servant. For Colombo—Dr. and Mrs. Heinrich May and children. For London—Mrs. H. Wicksing, Mrs. Ryan, Revs. Glover and Morris. Messrs. Norman L. Ashburner, T. S. Smith, G. Batchelor, and J. Dible.

REPORTS.

The British steamship *Taisang* reports that she left Shanghai on the 26th instant. Had moderate north-east winds and overcast sky with rain.

The British steamship *Diamante* reports that she left Manila on the 27th instant. Had moderate north-east monsoon and fine weather throughout.

Post Office.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE, For Swatow, Amoy, & Taisang.—Per *Taisang* to-morrow, the 1st May, at 11.30 A.M.  
For Shanghai—Per *Fookang* to-morrow, the 1st May, at 2.30 P.M.

SHIPPING IN HONGKONG.

STEAMERS.  
AMICITA, Norwegian steamer, 327, Joh. Irgens, 29th April—Odessa 10th March, General—Order.

ANCONA, British steamer, 1,888, W. D. Middle, 26th April—Yokohama 18th April, Mails and General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

ARRATOON, APAR, British steamer, 1,392, J. G. Spence, 23rd April—Calcutta 8th April, Penang 14th, and Singapore 17th, Opium and General—D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.

BENTLEI, British steamer, 1,481, J. H. Clark, 29th April—Saigon 25th April, General—Gibb, Livingston & Co.

BORMIDA, Italian steamer, 1,580, C. Gavazza, 26th April—Singapore 20th April, General—Carlozzi & Co.

CHELYUBA, British steamer, 1,574, G. Payne, 24th April—Saigon 20th April, Rice and Paddy—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

CHOWFA, British steamer, 1,057, F. W. Phillips, 27th April—Bangkok 19th April, General—Yuen Fat Hong.

CLARA, German steamer, 675, H. Ipland, 28th April—Haliphong 25th April, Rice and General—A. R. Marti.

DELTA, French steamer, 717, Abbal, 29th April—Haliphong 26th April, General—Messageries Maritimes.

DONAR, German steamer, 1,041, B. Grundmann, 25th April—Saigon 20th April, Rice—Wieler & Co.

ELSE, German steamer, 747, M. Jebens, 26th April—Saigon 21st April, Rice—Melchers & Co.

FALKENBURG, German steamer, 989, H. Frerichs, 26th April—Saigon 22nd April, Rice and Paddy—Melchers & Co.

FRÆJR, Danish steamer, 397, C. L. Strand, 26th April—Pakhoi, and Hollow 25th April, General—Arnhold, Karberg & Co.

GLENFRUIN, British steamer, 1,916, E. Norman, 29th April—Whampoa 20th April, General—Jardine, Matheson & Co.

HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,120, Harris, 28th April—Mosi 22nd April, Coals and General—D. Laprak & Co.

LOIRE, INFERIURE, French steamer, 533, Vias, 28th April—Saigon 24th April, General—Chinese.

MAMOA, British steamer, 863, Godard, 29th April—Foothow 26th April, Amoy 27th, and Swatow 28th, General—D. Laprak & Co.

NANSHAN, British steamer, 805, J. Blackburne, 1st April—Bangkok 6th April, Rice—Hop Hong.

NIZAM, British steamer, 1,615, Geo. L. Langborne, R.N.R., 27th April—Boumbay 9th April, and Singapore 20th, General—P. & O. S. N. Co.

OCEANIC, British steamer, 3,808, W. M. Smith, 27th April—San Francisco and April, and Yokohama 22nd, Mails and General—O. & O. S. S. Co.

PARTHIA, British steamer, 2,015, John Pantan, R.N.R., 15th April—Saigon 11th April, General—Adamson, Bell & Co.

SIAM, British steamer, 991, John M. Tulloch, 27th April—Bangkok 21st April, Rice—Chinese.

THALAS, British steamer, 819, Hunter, 28th April—Taiwan 23rd April, Amoy 21st, Swatow 27th, General—D. Laprak & Co.

THAI AV, Chinese steamer, 359, Wong Ling Sing, 12th Dec.—Haliphong 27th Dec., Ballast—Chinese.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LTD.—27 per cent, div., sellers.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LTD., FOUNDERS' SHARES—\$40 per share, sellers.

THE SHAMEEN HOTEL, British and German, Limited—nominal.

THE UNION INSURANCE SOCIETY OF CANTON, LIMITED.

# MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

# The Hongkong Telegraph.

N°. 2831.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

SIX DOLLARS  
PER QUARTER.

BIRTHS.  
At 8, Honan Road, Shanghai, on the 19th inst., the wife of J. B. CAMERON, of a son.  
On April 22nd, at St. John's College, Shanghai, the wife of J. RENK, Esq., of H.M. the King of the Netherlands' Consulate, Amoy, of a daughter.

On the 22nd April, at 21, Elgin Road, the wife of T. DE FARIA-NEVES, of a son.

DEATHS.  
At Hankow, on the 14th inst., WILLIAM FORBES SHARP.

At Shanghai, on 22nd April, WILLIAM ABRAM BURR, aged 55 years.

At the Government Civil Hospital, on the 22nd instant, Captain JOHN PARKINSON HOYLAND, steamer *Fathian*, aged 50.

The Hongkong Telegraph.

HONGKONG, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

## THE GAMBLING ABORTION.

This *blé noir* in this most original of legislative efforts was discovered in section 3 of the proposed ordinance. The section reads:—"A place shall be deemed to be opened, kept or used as a common gaming house, or for the purpose of a lottery, when gambling is one of the main and principal objects for which the said place is opened, kept or used, although such place is also used as an ordinary social club, and the public at large have not access thereto." This was too much even for the Official Phalanx of the Hongkong Legislative Council to swallow without making wry faces, and from Governor *ds Vaux* downwards—and it is a long way down from his Excellency to that lay figure the Colonial Treasurer—they prevaricated and wanted time, thought gambling was a wicked thing and angel's visits were few and far between, and opined they would quickly settle the difficulty if they only knew how. But they didn't know how, and hence the trouble. We don't know who drafted the original ordinance, and there is no desire on our part to print a single offensive word regarding that *chef-d'œuvre* of legal short-sightedness. But we must really break a lance in defence of public rights, no matter whether Mr. Ackroyd or Mr. GOODMAN is responsible for the thing so realistically described in the heading of this article.

The ostensible object of the *Gambling Ordinance* was to remove a doubt as to what actually constituted a common gaming house in this colony. A large number of so-called Chinese clubs had sprung up in the town to which all and sundry could resort and indulge in games of chance, and in certain cases, when the offenders were hauled up before the magistrate, they were acquitted, owing to the alleged ambiguity of the language of the section under which they were charged. All that was required to regulate gambling in Hongkong and keep it within reasonable limits, was to distinctly lay down, without any room for doubt, the difference between a properly constituted club and a common gaming house. A simple matter apparently, but it nevertheless resulted in the evolution of a very much involved and, as a whole, decidedly idiotic ordinance which threatened the rights and independence of every social institution in Hongkong. And the Unofficial Members very naturally kicked against it, and Governor *ds Vaux* practically upheld their objections.

We have already quoted the objectionable section of the ordinance as originally drafted, and we cannot really see that the proposed amendment is any improvement. It reads—"A place which is used as an ordinary social club to which the public at large have not access, shall nevertheless be deemed a common gaming house if kept or used either for the playing of any of the games mentioned in A, or for the purpose mentioned in B in section 2." Now, before going farther, we must explain, as far as we can, what the misty references to "A" and "B" mean. The genius who drafted this legislative masterpiece wants to define what a lottery is, forgetting that the *Lottery Act* requires neither explanation nor definition. And he says that "a lottery includes any game, method or device whereby money or money's worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon or to be determined by chance or lot (or the result of any race or contest); whether the same be held, drawn, exercised or managed within or without the colony." And there is a lot more ignorant rot intended to mean the same thing. Horse-racing is a perfectly legitimate and legal pastime; a very hedge lawyer ought to know right well, stakes in connection with racing are just as valid as the transactions of ordinary mercantile life; but our Hongkong legal Solon, whoever he may be—not that that matters very much, as he is most probably a fitting representative of the mixed crowd of knaves and fools who have flooded this colony, to its detriment, for years—has made the subscribers to an ordinary racing sweepstakes, a universally recognised legal contract, common criminals in the eye of the law and subject to the pains and penalties provided for by this ordinance. Supposing ten owners of race-ponies, subscribed £20 a-piece for a cup or sweepstakes to be run for at Happy Valley, they would place themselves under the ban of this ridiculous definition of a lottery and could be fined or sent to prison. Was this necessary to prevent the existence of the Chinese gaming houses under the name of clubs? Will offensive interference with the comparatively innocent and certainly

harmless sports and pastimes of Europeans tend in any shape or form to reduce the particular vice against which this law is specially aimed? If not, what is the good of it, as at present framed?

The legal gentleman who framed this model of Hongkong modern jurisprudence, must either have been imitating *Rip Van Winkle* or attending the Sunday school classes of the Salvation Army. He defines a common gaming house as "any place opened, kept or used for playing therein (sic) any game of chance, or any mixed game of chance and skill, (1) in which a bank is kept by one or more of the players exclusively of the other or others, or (2) in which the chances of the game are not alike favorable to all the players, including among (sic) the players the banker or other person by whom the game is managed, or again when the players stake, play or bet—or (3) in which any commission, or percentage is charged in connection with the game, the stakes or the winnings—or (4) in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for." Any place which is held for the purpose of a lottery or lotteries comes under the ordinance. If there is anything new, or original, or sensible in the foregoing, we shall be glad if the Attorney General, or any of our readers will point it out. The existing *Lottery Act*, unless Sir *George Phillipps* was fully at sea, and we don't think he was, fully provide for race-lotteries, pari-mutuel, totalisator, and everything connected with horse-racing—wide his lordship's judgment in the very interesting case of *Fraser-Smith v. Moore* in 1884—and we cannot see the slightest necessity or any reasonable grounds for this threatened interference with the long established social privileges of the foreign residents of Hongkong. Horse-racing, race-lotteries, the totalisator and pari-mutuel, a dollar limit at poker or a fifty cent point at whist, are to be made criminal offences—why? have these wicked indulgences shocked public morality, outraged "old custom," interfered in any way with vested interests or the rights of the community? Oh dear no! but the low Chinese gaming dens must be shut up, and our official legal luminaries cannot see the difference between a low hell, open to all and sundry for purposes of gaming and for nothing else in Lascar Row, and the Hongkong Club in Queen's Road and the City Club in Ice House Street. If Governor *ds Vaux* cannot see his way to absolutely withdraw this most Quixotic of intended reforms, the representatives of the public in the local legislature should practically protest by declining to vote and leaving the Council-room *en masse*.

The man who makes a common gaming house of every respectable club in the colony, where games of chance are common—whist, poker, euchre, billiards, bowls, etc., etc.—in which excessive stakes are ordinarily played for, is only fit to be tarred and feathered and left in that condition. What are excessive stakes? Twenty dollars or twenty cents? Who shall decide? A Hongkong police magistrate! Not scarcely! that feeble bubble has burst. Sir *William ds Vaux* is leaving here shortly for good; before we strongly recommend him to appoint a Mixed Commission of sensible and practical men to investigate the gambling evil in Hongkong and to report on the requirements of the colony in that direction. To pass the present Ordinance in its present shape would be the height of folly.

**DETERRENT SENTENCES.**  
At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Hongkong Legislative Council held in December last Mr. Registrar Ackroyd, who was then acting as Attorney-General, in giving his views on the proposed extension of Victoria Gaol, practically advocated wholesale flogging as the punishment most likely to have a deterrent effect in the reduction of crime in this colony. And notwithstanding the fact that the Secretary of State positively and absolutely declined to accede to the recommendation of the Gaol Inquiry Committee, of which the worthy Registrar of the Supreme Court was chairman, that flogging should be sanctioned for a number of comparatively minor offences, we now find Mr. Ackroyd in his present position of Acting Puisne Judge ignoring the very plainly expressed instructions of the Home Government, and ordering the lash with no unsparing hand on a hapless prisoner who had the misfortune to come under his jurisdiction.

On the broad question of flogging for offences against law and order there is no recognition for the judges in Crown colonies to make any serious mistake. Public opinion in England has distinctly said that flogging as a legal punishment, excepting for gaulators and in cases where brutal violence has been used, will not be tolerated, and that expression of public opinion has been supported by Her Majesty's Government. Fifteen years ago the state of affairs in Hongkong was simply infamous; public flogging at the back of the Harbour Office were of frequent occurrence, the almost daily scenes at the whipping post being of a most degrading and demoralising character. The colony owes the removal of that relic of barbarism to Sir *John Pope Hennessy*, who not only abolished public flogging but reduced corporal punishment in gaol to the narrowest limits; and this he did with the entire approval of the Secretary of State, and to the satisfaction of the vast majority of the Hongkong community, the principal dissenters being the Company's steamer in a manner that has never been exceeded, against the advice

of his best friends he stuck to his post, after his health had exhibited evident symptoms of an impending collapse, until Nature gave way and he had to be carried, as on that fatal night the 24th February, 1884, to the Government Hospital, where he died two days ago, a victim to his own exaggerated notions of duty and to the gross neglect of the Directors of the Steamboat Company, who ought to have relieved him from duty weeks ago. And his requiem from the official representative of the Directors was that chaste specimen of cynical philosophy, "the same old thing, I suppose!" For shame!

The success achieved by the Steamboat Company since its inception has been due in no inconsiderable degree to the skill and care exhibited by the commanders and officers in managing the steamers, and also to the courtesy, tact, and obliging dispositions of the captains in dealing with passengers. No commander in the service has been more deservedly popular than Captain HOYLAND, none has ever been more kindly and obliging to his passengers, none more skillful and efficient in the performance of his onerous and important duties, none a more devoted and faithful servant and advocate of the Steamboat Company—no man living has done more for the interests of his employers and not one has been so scrupulously compensated. "The same old thing, I suppose," sneered His Mightiness, the "mere scribe" of the Company—the description is Mr. Bellios, chairman of the *Hooyland*, not ours—when he learned that John HOYLAND, after half a life-time's hard work in the service, had been carried to the Hospital to die. And we repeat "for shame!" HOYLAND and the present writer have had a dispute, extending over some years, over a well-known passage from "Horace;" we never could satisfactorily settle it, and it is too late now, but we hope one of these days to oblige the Secretary of the Steamboat Co. with our version of the wisdom of the great Latin philosopher and *savant*, and to be able to convince him that to carry

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The success achieved by the Steamboat

principal promoters of the projected new water supply for the capital of Kwangtung. The Viceroy sets out that the labour and expenses necessary to carry out the proposed works would be enormous, and that if the community were called upon to contribute towards the cost and upkeep, serious troubles would probably arise. And *Li Han-chang*, at his advanced age, is naturally desirous of avoiding any conflict with an irate populace who most assuredly would "kick against" any increased taxation even for such a boon as a plentiful supply of good water, he has solved the difficulty to his own satisfaction at least by shelving the petition, and refusing to memorialise the Emperor in favor of the project. His Excellency has further given orders for the immediate arrest and severe punishment of Ho Ludo Kan, whom he describes as an official dismissed from office, and who has already been under the ban of the Emperor's displeasure.

The Governor's reply is couched in pretty much the same terms as the Viceroy's. He opines that if the people were forbidden to use water from their own wells—almost every house in Canton has a separate well of its own—and compelled to pay for a supply by the proposed "Water-works," it would be difficult to get them to obey with delight. He also foresees serious troubles in the suggested monthly collection of a water-tax, sums up by concluding that the benefits of the new scheme would be very little and the disadvantages proportionately great, and therefore refuses to accede to the petitioner's proposals.

This is only one more instance of the strong disinclination of the Chinese to adopt foreign methods, unless absolutely compelled to do so by the necessities of the moment. The proposed Water-works would undoubtedly have proved an invaluable boon to the millions who crowd the narrow streets of Canton, but the difficulties in the way of realising the scheme on the lines proposed were almost impracticable from the first. Any attempt to impose a fresh tax on a proverbially conservative and stiff-necked populace, who, Chinese-like, are satisfied with the water already at their disposal, would inevitably have led to riots and bloodshed, and without such tax the carrying out of the works and maintaining them after completion would have been quite impossible. And so the undertaking collapsed.

## OUR CONSTITUTIONAL DEAD-LOCK.

We seem to have arrived at a period in the history of this by no means unimportant Crown colony which needs careful thought and most cautious inquiry. The strain at present existing between the official and unofficial members concerning the various questions before the Legislative Council in Hongkong have their counterparts in Ceylon and the Straits Settlements. The questions being dealt with may not have been skillfully handled, nor perhaps are they apt methods of bringing out the fact that discontent exists. The discontent is not, however, on one point or in reference to one question; it is deeper than that; it is the spirit of autocratic *versus* Government-by-representatives that is on the balance; it is the attempt of the Crown Colonies Government to perpetuate a condition of things which cost one at least of the English Kings his head, and two, or three more their thrones. It is a repetition of the old mistakes which lost the United States to the British Crown. The continued divisions into Unofficial and Official groups in the Legislative Council here between a condition of things which has only had one result in the history of the English-speaking people for the last 800 years, it may be the fault of the system of Government more than the governing class which demands reparation, but it is evident that something has to be done, and will be done soon, if not with a "recking whale" at least in no uncertain form. We are honoured with a representative of the Queen, and could we get that representative to imitate the position her Majesty holds in matters constitutional we would not object to the infliction of a heavy fine. But such is not the case. Her Majesty's representative is permitted by the peculiar constitution of a Crown colony to reign pretty much as he pleases. He laughs at unruly members of his Council and rejoices how effectively he handles these revolutionary gentlemen; he creates a Sanitary Board in which the elect of the people may expend their energetic howling against what is a mere screen for the autocratic doings of wilfully short-sighted officialdom. All these are tactics which hide the truth for a time, but when the Anglo-Saxon seriously takes up matters, especially constitutional, woe betide any who obstructs his reaching his goal, more particularly when the advocates of progress are offensively ridiculed by their time-being masters.

It is hard to say how much (or how little) truth there was in this rumor, but a member of our staff, who was at Kowloon city on Saturday and Sunday, saw the mandarin and the "commander of the forces," both of whom said they expected the gunboats at any moment. In the squalid little gaol were two middle-aged women—one of whom had a very contused arm, which she said she was unable to get doctored. An official gave our representative to understand that they were implicated in the same crime as the woman who was to be tortured, having helped her to kill her daughter-in-law; but somehow they had escaped her sentence. There was certainly a pretence made of keeping men on the look-out for the gunboats, and a man who was alleged to be an assistant-executioner was pointed out and apparently filled the responsible situation to his own satisfaction. At the same time the official countenances wore an expression which implied concealed joy at having foiled the barbarians to completely, and in view of the fact that the gambling dens were driving such a trade as they never did before. The probability is that the modern Chinese Shylock, his Excellency *Li Han-chang*, and his shabby crowd of obsequious subordinates were at the bottom of the whole "thing." The Customs officials in Hongkong, who would certainly have heard if the gunboats really had left Canton on Saturday morning, assert that the whole thing was a *canard*.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Capt. H. T. Hawkins, R.A., has resumed his duties as Adjutant of the Hongkong Volunteers from the 15th inst.

At a special session of the Justices of the Peace on Tuesday, May 1st, Mr. Robert Listerwood will apply for a license to sell and retail intoxicating liquors at the Mount Austin Hotel, Victoria Gap.

Captain F. de Vere Creighton, who has completed his one year's term of engagement as Military Instructor in the Royal Military College of Staff, has left for England, where he will review his regiments.

"MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN."

The same old thing, I suppose!" Such was the satirical comment of the Secretary of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Company, Limited, on learning that the senior officer of the Fleet, Capt. John P. HOYLAND—whose death we recorded on Monday last—had been removed from the steamship *Fathian* on a stretcher to the Government Civil Hospital, suffering from a severe attack of pleurisy, aggravated by a general break-up, which eventually caused his death. The remark was not a judicious one; it was totally uncalled for, and had circumstances been otherwise, it was in shocking bad taste. The Secretary of the Steamboat Company enjoys the reputation—whatever it may be worth—of being the cynic par excellence of this colony. The words of wisdom which fall from his lips like glittering dewdrops are no doubt treasured by an admiring Board of Directors; his opinions, to use Macaulay's well-known phrase, may be "acidulated with scorn" and still may be the virgin metal believed in by some shareholders—but we fail to see how he is going to justify giving him every licence and every possible advantage available, the gross and bitter and cowardly insult he offered to a man who was practically on his death-bed, and for who the long period of nineteen years had been a most faithful servant of the Company which pays Mr. Thomas Arnott his very handsome monthly stipend. In England the remark which opens this article, under the circumstances would probably have subjected the speaker to personal violence of a serious character. In Hongkong it will possibly lead to an increase of salary; but to those who know the truth and are not altogether debased from common manhood, that famous saying of ROBERT BURNS about "man's inhumanity to man" will inevitably press upon the memory when the Secretary of the Military Contribution and the Salaries dispute, he directly instigated that their joint letters on those subjects were insolent to a degree; and he said, in a few words—"if our informant's memory is to be relied on—that he should make the Colony suffer, by neglecting his duty to it. If the Unofficial Members did not acknowledge their sins and withdraw from their offensive position.

Such is the tone which our servant—the servant of every tax-payer in this Colony—has adopted towards the public's representatives in this "Coward's Castle" of the guarded Council Chamber. His Excellency is ill, very ill—we understand, that the medical diagnosis of his case is very gloomy—and the Hongkong community can forgive much in a sick man who has proved himself in several British colonies a very able representative of English interests, and has never been excelled, against the advice

of his best friends he stuck to his post, after his health had exhibited evident symptoms of an impending collapse, until Nature gave way and he had to be carried, as on that fatal night the 24th February, 1884, to the Government Hospital, where he died two days ago, a victim to his own exaggerated notions of duty and to the gross neglect of the Directors of the Steamboat Company, who ought to have relieved him from duty weeks ago. And his requiem from the official representative of the Directors was that chaste specimen of cynical philosophy, "the same old thing, I suppose!" For shame!

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The Governor's reply is couched in pretty much the same terms as the Viceroy's.

He opines that if the people were

forbidden to use water from their own wells—almost every house in Canton has a separate well of its own—and compelled to pay for a supply

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He also foresees serious troubles in the suggested monthly collection of a water-tax, sums up by concluding that the benefits of the new scheme would be very little and the disadvantages proportionately great, and therefore refuses to accede to the petitioner's proposals.

This is only one more instance of the strong disinclination of the Chinese to adopt foreign methods, unless absolutely compelled to do so by the necessities of the moment.

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STRANGERS are leaving Amoy almost daily laden with Chinese passengers for Singapore and the Straits Settlements.

THE return of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending April 26th, are:—Europeans 136, and Chinese 1,686; total 1,824.

SIR JOHN F. DICKSON, Colonial Secretary for the Straits, says the *Ceylon Observer*, is likely to leave Singapore towards the autumn on furlough, and it is not expected that he will return.

FOR the sake of the souls of the "pore" heathen, which have lately gone sadly astray, we rejoice to learn that the Rev. L. C. Higgs has returned from leave of absence, and has resumed duty as Colonial Chaplain at Penang.

WE are informed by the agent of the Compania Maritima Asiatica that the steamship *Independent* with her 680 Chinese emigrants arrived at Selina Cruz on the 22nd of April, all well; making the passage in 46 days.

A LIGHTHOUSE has lately been erected at the port of Kudat. It is said to be a substantial structure, and shows a powerful light that can be seen a long distance off. This is the first light-house opened in British North Borneo.

At the Police Court recently. Interpreter (to a Portuguese witness in an assault case)—"Are you a Christian or a Roman Catholic?" Witness—"What?" Interpreter—"Take the Book, please." And a smile went round the Court.

An Italian, charged with a stabbing outrage in North Bridge Road, Singapore, on the night of the 15th inst., was arrested on board the steamship *Borneo*, as the vessel was preparing to leave the harbour on the afternoon of the 17th inst.

ON the 8th inst., the police authorities at Batavia, accompanied by the British Consul, visited the steamers *Dorinda* and *Taraba*, of the Queen's Land Royal Mail Line. They were anxious to find a person by the name of Waterhouse who had come from Sydney; having embarked the sum of £3,000. The search was unsuccessful.

THE erudite musical critic of the *Daily Press*, in "doing" the concert given at the City Hall on Thursday night last, remarks that "the impression created by Mr. Grace's singing is far more striking than what might be made in the case of a singer whose vocal powers were of superior degree, but whose declamation and enunciation were inferior." Now, what does all that mean?

THE following are the returns of population for the Straits Settlements, as ascertained by the census taken on the night of Sunday, April 5th:—

Singapore ..... 186,166 187,118 188,518  
Perang & Pro- 187,131 188,108 189,518  
vince Wellesley ..... 141,000 171,000 171,000  
Malacca ..... 25,352 25,379 26,000  
Total ..... 348,618 374,106 387,034 403,184 409,068

OUR Singapore contemporary the *Straits Times* says it is now hard to get good men as directors of public companies in the Straits, as they "are always retiring by reason of going home and the like." It is likewise hard to get suitable directors in Hongkong, and the men they do select are not always good, but rather err on the other side. This is a subject we intend to thoroughly thresh out in the very near future.

TRUTH A Chinese contemporary—"There seems to be some trouble at the Tong Shan mines. Some days ago one of the foreign overseers had occasion to punish some of his servants, when he was assaulted by a hundred or more of the Cantonese. He was badly injured, but managed to get on board a train, and in company with a foreign doctor betook himself to Tientsin. The rest of the foreigners employed at the mines are also hurrying away as fast as they can. It remains to be seen how this matter will be settled."

WHAT is the deepest depth of ignorance? was the question put by a well-known local philosopher to three cronies at the bar of the Hongkong Hotel on the 24th inst. "It is the crass ignorance displayed by a Hongkong Government official when he is asked for any information regarding the working or details of the special department which he is supposed to direct," was the prompt reply of an ubiquitous newspaper man who was in the crowd, and it was unanimously agreed that a correct solution had been arrived at.

THE proprietor of a Japanese coffee shop in Wellington Street was robbed of his watch and chain last night (23rd inst.) by a Portuguese sceler. He informed the Police, and this morning Inspector Quincey and Detective Hadden, who were on the alert, caught a well-dressed damsel pawing the watch and chain in the same street. She was at once arrested, and said the articles had been given to her by a Portuguese, who at present is "wanted." Boy! the barjo!—

Big Fists have smaller Fists.  
To tickle 'em and bite 'em.  
And Japanese have (Portuguese)  
And do as I say.

THE *Straits Times* of the 18th inst. reports:—Something approaching a serious riot occurred in Strangor yesterday between two Chinese *Sok*s, the *Sok Lin* and *Sok Cha*, somewhere about fifty Chinese participating. The disturbance occurred shortly after 4 p.m., and the police were successful in arresting eleven of the participants, who will be charged to-day on two counts—rioting and unlawful assembly. The weapons used were of the club, machete, and scimitar. The Chinese in these cases; more productive of scars and plentiful bruised than fatal injuries, and it was only found necessary to send three men to Hospital, with broken heads. On enquiry it has been ascertained that a woman of easy virtue was the cause of the trouble; she had been kept by a member of one *Sok* and had been decoyed or, at any rate, taken away by a member of the rival one. Hence the trouble, which, as noted, sent the amiable Chinese and their numerous connections on the war-path.

AT the Magistracy on the 23rd inst., Mr. Wise, Acting Coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Au Sing, who was stabbed in a disturbance at the Cosmopolitan Docks on the 4th March last. The jurors were—Messrs. C. F. Jhing, G. A. Yarovich and F. J. V. Jorge. Mr. Caldwell (Messrs. Caldwell and Wilkinson) watched the case on behalf of U Pan, who was present, and who is charged with cutting and wounding on the said date. Mr. Caldwell was permitted by Mr. Wise to cross-examine the witness. Sergeant Ford said he was at Vau-nai-ti Station on the 4th March last. About 2 p.m. he heard there had been a disturbance at the Cosmopolitan Docks. He went there and found the deceased on a bed suffering from wounds, and had him removed to the Hospital. Chinese constable 2/2, who accompanied the last witness, gave similar evidence. Dr. Lowson, Assistant Superintendent Civil Hospital, said the deceased was admitted about 4.30 p.m. on the 4th March, suffering from decubitus wounds on each shoulder and two similar wounds near the spine. The deceased died through exhaustion from hemorrhage, caused by the wound on the right side of the spine, on the 16th April. Mr. Caldwell cross-examined the constable 2/2, who said he had evidently thought his name called for some corresponding character.

MR. J. J. M. FLEURY takes charge of the Netherland Consulate General at the Singapore instead of Mr. G. Lavino, absent on leave.

THE Carewitch, on board the *Vladivostok* and accompanied by an escort of two Russian war vessels, passed Chinkiang on the night of the 17th inst., en route to Hankow.

A MASONIC LODGE has been started in Sandakan, British North Borneo. It is styled the Borneo Lodge, and will be consecrated as soon as the charter arrives from the Grand Lodge of England.

SOME very interesting correspondence between the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council and Governor des Vos on the vexed question of the increase in official salaries, will be found in another part of this issue.

THE suggested amalgamation of the Insurance Companies in Singapore will scarcely be affected without considerable trouble. Difficulties are already cropping up, and we doubt if it is to the public interest that this attempt at a monopoly should succeed.

IT is common gossip in the colony that at least one of the Directors of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation is under very heavy monetary obligations to the Bank, and that other accounts are heavily overdrawn to dangerous limits. The Auditors should see to this and take fearless action if necessary. There also reports current on apparently good authority that certain employees in the Bank have again been indulging in reckless share gambling "on time" and are heavily involved. Will the Court of Directors see their way to make inquiries and take effective steps to put a stop to what has been a disgraceful scandal in the management of the Bank for years past?

THE *Singapore Free Press* notes the arrival at that port in H.M.S. *Tamar* of Major Hannay and Lieut. A. Sutherland, of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, who have gone down from Hongkong "for some big game shooting in Negi Semban." We trust the gallant Major will have good sport.

MR. H. M. BECHER has been prospecting for the Fabang Corporation. He wrote a short golden vision of Mine the other day beginning—"I am pleased to report that the prospects of the mine are unchanged, and that we continue to break excellent stone," &c. &c. Lord Punjor sentenced him to seven days' imprisonment and ordered his discharge from the ship.

MR. ALEXANDER YOUNG, for the past twenty years a foreman carpenter in the employ of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, principally at Kowloon Docks—left here on Thursday last in the steamship *Zafra* to assume charge of the Manila Patent Slip. Mr. Young has, during his long term of service with our local Dock Company, proved himself a most useful and reliable man, and as he is a thorough master of his business there can be very little doubt that he will have a successful career in his new sphere of action. He certainly carries with him the good wishes of his numerous friends in this colony, and their name is legion. A man who has hosts of friends and no enemies is a rarity indeed in this age of wholesale back-biting. Alec Young occupies that enviable position.

ZERINHO PEREIRA, the Portuguese who was "wanted" by the police, was charged before Mr. Wise at the Police Court this morning (25th inst.) with stealing a silver watch and chain, the property of a Japanese on Thursday night. The complainant said he hung his coat up whilst having a game of billiards on the night of the day in question, and on going for his coat he found the watch and chain missing. Detective Hadden said he arrested a woman who had pawned the watch and chain, and she gave information which led to the defendant's arrest. The defendant said he did not steal the articles; he was willing to compensate the complainant. He admitted doing six months for larceny, and three weeks' imprisonment for disorderly conduct last year. Mr. Wise said he thought the defendant a "bad hat"—and prescribed six months' hard labour. They've got him on the list.

GOOD OLD *Straits Times*! Our Singapore colleague apologizes for the delay in holding the ordinary general meeting of the "Jellyfish" Company, and says in extenuation—"It has been found that the date prescribed for the meeting unduly hinders the making-up of the books and the sale of the half-year's ore and tin, yet neither is it desirable to declare a dividend until the tin and ore are turned into cash." The halics are ours, and we command them to the serious consideration of directorates of local limited liability companies.

IN some month since our evening contemporary, in the course of one of those editorial emanations which so delight the "one reader," committed itself to the assertion "that the Australians hate the Lascars." The *Sydney Bulletin*, cheerful, responds as follows:—"No, we don't. We love them—at a distance. As interlopers amongst local white labour, we don't want them at all. It is no question of love or hate, but merely one of protecting the right of our whites to live up to a free man's standard. The Lascars is a fine fellow in his native land. As an alleged navigator, he's a slummocker, a fraud, a coward, and a willing sacrifice to the boss swatters. As a landman immigrant, he is an evader and a human cockroach." And now "Brownie," what does your opinion?

A REPUTATION of the *Fusiki Maru* has recently occurred in connection with the smuggling of the nine Japanese girls on the *Zambesi*, as reported in a previous issue. Capt. Parsons describes the condition of the poor creatures when discovered in the fore-peak, as most pitiable. They and the two panderers who had inveigled them aboard were huddled on anchor-chains, in a place too small to hold a couple of people with any comfort, for four days literally lying on the top of each other, and if bad weather had been met with, and the place battened down, they would most certainly have been suffocated. At the Police Court to-day (15th inst.) the nine girls and two men were brought before Mr. Wise on the formal charge of being stowaways. This case was adjourned yesterday in order that the Japanese Consul might be communicated with. The Consul had replied that it was out of his power to move in the matter and that he could give no suggestion as to their disposal excepting handing them over. Mr. Wise said he could not do anything with them. They admitted the charge, but were willing to pay all demands. The captain said he would accept the payment of passage money on the assurance that he should be held free from blame by the Japanese authorities, and the case was dismissed. It was the best thing for the girls—but the *procureurs* to go unwhipped of Justice?

ABOUT once a week we publish the bald announcement that some Chinaman or other who has had the temerity to return after deportation has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, with hard labor. There are no other details provided—simply the man had been convicted of one or more offences, ordered by the Governor-in-Council to be transported for so long, and came back before his time was up. But in Singapore, owing to the existence of an Ordinance whose careless drafting lays even the most innocent to the charge of being a criminal, the man was charged with being a felon, and before he could do any harm. In the confusion one of the Acholies' guides was mistaken for an enemy and he was unfortunately shot dead.

WILLIAM KING, chief officer of the British steamer *Chase*, was charged at the Harbourmaster's Office on the 23rd inst., before Comd. Hastings, R.N., Acting Marine Magistrate, with assaulting Frank Full, A. B. of the same ship, on Thursday last. Mr. Caldwell appeared for the complainant and Mr. Holmes for the defense. The complainant said that about six o'clock on Thursday night he was walking on deck when he felt some one seize him from behind and dash him on the deck, causing him to become insensible. When he came to, he inquired how he came by his injuries, and upon learning that the chief officer had assaulted him he took out a revolver. He admitted being in worse liquor at the time. E. Blacher, lamplighter, gave corroborative evidence. The defendant said the complainant had been using abusive language to him and challenged him to fight, and called the third engineer, who corroborated his statement. His Honor considered the charged proved and imposed a fine of £50 or its weekly equivalent. At the close of the case Captain Scotland, of the same steamer, charged Frank Full with disobeying his orders on Thursday. The charge being proved Frank got a "full seven days." He had evidently thought his name called for some corresponding character.

THE boasted suitability of the steamship *Heng-hau* for the Hongkong-Macao traffic is pretty clearly "shown up" by the time-table circulated on the 24th inst., regularising her hours of departure from here to Macao during the summer months. As the hours range from 1 to 5 p.m., passengers are certainly booked for a real good time. In the face of this slipshod kind of business, it is not to be wondered at if the Steam Launch Co.'s *Perseverance*, as reported, has been resuming a rich harvest on this route.

THE census of Malacca taken a few days ago shows a total of 48,165 males and 40,077 females, or 88,242 in all. The population was 93,570 in 1881, so that it has diminished by no less than 4,337 during the last ten years. It had increased by 4,853 in the ten years previously, the population in 1871 being 77,756.

WE note from our Singapore exchanges that the third ordinary general meeting of the Telesu Mining and Trading Company will be held at the Exchange Rooms, Singapore, at noon to-day, the 30th instant. An extraordinary meeting will afterwards be held in order to sanction certain proposed alterations in the Company's rules.

WONG FAT CHEONG, the compradore to M. Victor Roque, of Haliphon, who is suspected of having betrayed that gentleman and M. Henri Roque to a band of pirates about a year ago, has been arrested by the authorities at Canton, according to the *Courrier d'Haliphon*. The chief grounds for suspicion are that the chief of the bandits said the man had been killed, while in fact of matter of fact he was making his way to his family.

AT the Magistracy on the 24th inst., Mr. Wise, Acting Coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death of Ah Fook, who fell from the roof of a house in Tank Lane on the 18th. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased had a quarrel in the house, and in trying to make his escape by the roof, fell into the street. He was taken to the hospital in a state of collapse, suffering from a compound fracture of the elbow joint, but he never rallied, and died the same day. The cause of death was a rupture of the liver, caused by the shock. The Magistrate returned a verdict of "Accidental death." Strike the jews-harp gently for the poor man!

IT is a fact that the *Acting Colonial Secretary* is binding upon it, and upon all its members as regards this year, and that he does not feel justified in taking any part in what he cannot but regard as something very nearly allied to a breach of contract with the officers concerned.

WHEN the unofficial members hear of his Excellency's decision on the subject of salaries, they will continue to answer all calls made upon them, one boiler keeping the lower levels free of water, while the wheel pump works well within its capacity on the drainage, from the 10 feet walkway in the continued dry weather. Driving is in progress on the No. 1 North Level, also on the foot and hanging walls northwards. All the staff from foot-wall level with slight pickings, goes to the dump heap for milling. The face is still in good looking quartz.

MILLING with one battery was continued till the 17th instant, when the batteries were stopped pending the arrival from Singapore of piston rings for the second engine. While the now winsome from the foot-wall at Jalls were being put through, the plates took on a good coating of asbestos, and the manager thinks the present campaign promises as well as the last, and it is expected shortly to resume crushing with the latter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

The following figures are highly instructive:—  
Question I.—Salaries and Personal Allowances.

1887	\$547,650.
1888	\$552,75.
1889	\$602,183.
1890	\$665,233.
1891	\$758,139. (estimated.)

Question II.—Public Works Department.

Salaries and Personal Allowances.

1887	\$49,402.
1888	\$62,336.
1889	\$75,139.
1890	\$75,008.
1891	\$88,460. (estimated.)

Resident Engineer.

1887	\$19,532.
1891	\$22,346. (estimated.)

LATEST NEWS FROM PUNJOM.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Company announces that the latest advices from the mines report that the pump engine, and wheel-wells at Jalls continue to answer all calls made upon them, one boiler keeping the lower levels free of water, while the wheel pump works well within its capacity on the drainage, from the 10 feet walkway in the continued dry weather. Driving is in progress on the No. 1 North Level, also on the foot and hanging walls northwards. All the staff from foot-wall level with slight pickings, goes to the dump heap for milling. The face is still in good looking quartz.

MILLING with one battery was continued till the 17th instant, when the batteries were stopped pending the arrival from Singapore of piston rings for the second engine. While the now winsome from the foot-wall at Jalls were being put through, the plates took on a good coating of asbestos, and the manager thinks the present campaign promises as well as the last, and it is expected shortly to resume crushing with the latter.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. M. DRAKE  
Acting Colonial Secretary.

The Honourable P. Ryrie, Esq.

Hongkong, 24th April, 1891.

His Excellency the Governor,

THE PUNJOM COMPANY.

An extraordinary meeting of shareholders in the above Company was held at the offices on the 23rd inst., for the purpose of confirming resolutions authorising the issue of preference shares, passed on the 8th inst. Mr. J. Orange presided, and among those present were Messrs. D. Gillies, E. L. Wordin, T. E. Davies, (Directors) D. W. Smith, H. Sampson, H. G. James, G. Holmes, T. Meier, H. D. Dyer, & Co., and A. O'D. Gourdin (Secretary).

The resolutions (which have already been published) having been confirmed, the Chairman continued:—As there seems to be some doubt in the minds of shareholders as to the exact meaning of the preference shares which we propose to issue I would explain that they are cumulative—that is to say supposing our earnings in one year do not meet the full dividend of 12 per cent the amount due the following year will be increased correspondingly. For instance, next year we are not likely to pay a dividend, therefore the year after preferential shareholders will be entitled to 24 per cent on their investments. Then again they will have a preference on the assets of the Company, and these are considerable, as, even if our concession reverts to the Government of Pahang, the cost of the surveys and the debt owing by the London Company will surely be enough to more than satisfy the amount of preference shares. I would like to state, for the information of the shareholders, (who perhaps don't like to wade through what letters we get) that we have exceedingly encouraging news from the mines. At Gabau, where Mr. Blaney is now, he is making extremely interesting discoveries, and he is working on a ten-ton lode which he hopes to put through shortly. He says he has made a discovery of three-crore carats' nuggety gold, of fine milling quality, in that respect much superior to the samples hitherto obtained, which were rather refractory. I think this is the first time in the history of the Company that we have discovered fine charge gold, and as there is a rather strong lode of it Mr. Blaney attaches much importance to the discovery. Mr. Hardy—who writes "I am not given to writing or speaking unadvisedly"—thinks the prospects of the Company are assuming a more hopeful aspect during the last three months, and I sincerely hope that this may be borne out in the near future. I have not had much experience of the Company but I think the directors will bear me out when I say that Mr. Hardy does not as a rule write or speak unadvisedly. At the Jails mine the small pump is working satisfactorily, and the larger pump and Roebing are nearly fixed. Work is actually going on in the drives and galleries, and by now milling is being continued—of course in a small way, but that will give us valuable information. We want additional capital to enable us to force the hand of the London Company. We are in this position—we can't send instructions to Mr. Brodie and Mr. Hewlett to press the London Company, by throwing it into liquidation, unless we have money to keep on the office and maintain our standing as a Company. We want capital to recover the debt due to us; if we force the London Company's hand and give Mr. Brodie instructions to proceed to the bitter end I think there is no doubt we shall get our money, and with that a small additional capital we should be able to put Jails on a proper footing. An extremely long time has been lost through the fact of this unfortunate Company having been started, but seeing that it has been started, and now over us a considerable amount, I think it is the duty of every shareholder to subscribe a small proportion on his holding to enable us to enforce our rights. Messrs. Syme & Co., of Singapore, have been instructed to close the list in a week, and were the amount subscribed, and the local and coast-parties will close in ten days. It is imperative that we should know as soon as possible whether we can continue the Company or not—it depends on the amount subscribed. I hope shareholders will do all they can—it would be most disastrous if we had to stop now. If anyone has any questions to ask I shall be glad to answer them.

There being none, the Chairman invited shareholders to show more interest in the Company by inspecting the voluminous reports received from the mines, and the proceedings terminated.

THE FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA FOR 1890.

The following is taken from the yellow-book just issued by the Statistical Department of the Imperial Maritime Customs:

The foreign commerce of China in 1890 showed a largely increased volume of imports and a largely diminished volume of exports as compared with that of 1889, and even, but to a less extent, with that of 1888. This result is at once shown by the three years' figures to be ranged, side by side as follows:

1888, *Hk. Tls.* 124,722,893; Net imports, value, 110,884,357.

1889, " 127,093,481.

1890, " 92,407,667.

1888, " 95,967,783.

1890, " 87,144,480.

That very many diverse causes, internal and external to China (e.g., the increased tea competition of India and Ceylon and the floods which swept the plains of Calcutta and devastated a vast area of country), contributed to the result is undoubted, but one dominating cause was the rapid rise in the gold value of silver, which facilitated the sale of imports and retarded the purchases of exports. Without giving minute details, I may record here that the telegraphic transfer price of the Shanghai tael on London rose by 150 points from 47,500 on 22nd February to 55,500 on 5th September, a difference of 15 per cent, and thereafter fell to 46,500 on 25th November, or 13 per cent, and, as formerly, included in exports to foreign countries.

In connection with the foreign trade, the total entries at treaty ports were 3,114 vessels of 2,944,000 tons, against 3,179 vessels, or 2,670,000 tons, in 1889; and with the same trade, 18,243 vessels, or 4,400,316 tons, against 11,167 vessels, of 8,750,221 tons, in 1889; and this total tonnage entered and cleared summed up to 26,875,000 tons, which included 10 million tons of British, 65 million of Chinese, 10 million of German, and 8 million of Japanese tonnage, but excluded the 87,101 entries and clearances of junk trading with Hongkong and Lappa Customs.

The recorded movements of gold and silver between China and foreign countries were a net export of gold of *Hk. Tls.* 1,733,228, and of silver of *Hk. Tls.* 3,837,778, together making a total value of *Hk. Tls.* 5,541,000.

The foreign trade of China, as represented in these statistics, is detailed in two principal tables: (1) net imports from foreign countries, and (2) exports to foreign countries. On the coast of China many foreign and much foreign capital is engaged in a quasi-foreign trade in conveying foreign and Chinese goods and passengers from one port to another; but these men and ships exist upon the profits of the home trade, and are part of the agencies occupied in the purely internal commerce of the country.

The net foreign imports in 1890, for which the first time include re-shippings to China, having grown in volume, summed up to a sum which is 10 per cent over that of 1889 by *Hk. Tls.* 15,269,136, or over 14 per cent, and the measure of the growth is also due, though less truly, to the large amount of the

import duty, which rose from *Hk. Tls.* 5,868,265 in 1889 to *Hk. Tls.* 6,528,914 in 1890—an increase of *Hk. Tls.* 660,651, or 11 per cent. One reason that the revenue is a less perfect measure of her exports, which are taken from her by vessels owned by people residing outside her bound. However, for this assessment, it has to be known that the market prices of foreign opium at Foochow, Tincow, and Canton exclude duty and likin, and at Shanghai also; but the Shanghai Customs, to preserve continuity with its values of next years, when price everywhere included the duty, adds *Hk. Tls.* 30 as duty to the market price in calculating its values; and at the statistics from which these tables are compiled are practically, even as regards opium, supplied for the north and central China by the Shanghai office, out of the total import there remained only 30,923 piculs the prices of which included the likin as well as duty, and there were 9,043 piculs even the duty of which was not included in the price. From the opium values, therefore, one has to deduct for duty and likin not the entire collection, but only so much of it as entered into the prices from which the values were taken. What that amount was is easily calculated, namely, 30,923 piculs by 110 = *Hk. Tls.* 3,401,530 by 25/59 by 30 = *Hk. Tls.* 1,072,770, or *Hk. Tls.* 4,474,300 in all. There are other minor allowances which must be made if exact results are wanted, but in this brief report it suffices to handle these statistics generally.

The value of the imports exceeded that of the exports by over 9 million taels, neither including treasure values.

The surplus value of exports having been about 4 million taels, the following were, as can best be ascertained, the net bullion movements for these years, namely, an export of gold of *Hk. Tls.* 5,081,803 and an import of silver of *Hk. Tls.* 537,511. And there is a fact which has also to be reckoned with in this connexion, that China paid away in these years in foreign places considerable sums in repayment of old loans without contracting new loans, and in other official disbursements, as for arms, ships, etc. Moreover, the earnings of the foreigners and the profits of foreign capital in China, when sent home, pass along the ordinary channels of commerce either as produce or as bullion, and are thus recorded in statistics as exports; for although the owners themselves may remit through banks, yet these, as the transmitters, make actual commodities or bullion the medium. But Chinese who have emigrated remit home largely in gold and silver coins, which are carried by passengers and so escape record in statistics as imports. In the years 1887, 1888 and 1890 the known import of gold into Hongkong was \$1,822,700, and the known export of it (to London almost entirely) was \$10,593,980; or a difference of \$6,712,280 in three years,—a surplus the existence of which in Hongkong can only be accounted for on the supposition that it was brought from America and Australia by Chinese passengers.

E. MCKEAN,  
Statistical Secretary.

Shanghai, 16th March, 1891.

BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Sandakan, 12th April.

Steps have been taken to start a gun club at Sandakan, with traps and clay pigeons from England. Live pigeons will also be turned to account.

The steamer *Mennin* is about to proceed to Holbow to bring coolies thence direct to British North Borneo. In this venture we wish the blue funnel line and Messrs. Alfred Holt and Turner, and all connected with them, every success. Planters one and all will joyfully hail the new departure, we suppose, as it must certainly reduce the cost of labour. The plundering of the coolies in the houses of the Hongkong brokers and on board ship in Hongkong harbour, if it ever was a reality, will cease, and this alone should reduce the first cost of coolie labour. It should also be made a ready means in getting a better class, assisting free or unindentured labour, preventing the change alleged to be so frequent of unhealthy for healthy men, and will remove the premium of free passages at present given to Hongkong ex-gao-birds.

We are very glad to be in a position to state that Freemasonry has at last made a start here. The first meeting of the members of "Borneo Lodge" took place last Wednesday, and the formal consecration of the Lodge will be performed when the anticipated documents arrive from the Grand Lodge of England.

Mr. S. A. Korcszki has, we learn, secured a concession for twelve months to prospect the shale and petroleum deposits on the west coast, of which several are known to exist. The last Mr. Frank Hatton sank a pit at Sekutai and also published an analysis of the oil.

The planters in Marudu Bay have taken time by the forelock this year. Count Gelos' estates at Kitow, Budow,邦, and Tandek are all cleared for the planting operations of 1891, and will make an early start.

Kudat is the first port in the territory to boast of a light-house. This has lately been opened. It is a good structure with four sides, and the light can be seen distinctly from a long distance. The sportsmen of Kudat have inaugurated a race-course and it is said will hold a meeting shortly. The course is about a mile round, quite flat, and should in time become a good one.

Kudat and the Marudu Bay estates seem to enjoy a privilege Sandakan and the East Coast have not yet realized—that is in the spontaneous arrival of coolies from China, coolies who of their own free will and accord leave their country and land in Kudat to try their luck on the estates in Marudu Bay. News has reached China, more especially from coolies in Marudu Bay, that with this work a coolie can earn a good profit and this is no doubt the incentive. There is no reason why the same good report should not emanate from the East Coast, and once this idea is established by indisputable fact (i.e., in the way of profits to coolies), it will go far to a commencement of our ability to procure good Chinese labour for the North Borneo tobacco plantations.

Free grants of land, limited to 1,500 acres, will be given by Government to planters of new products in the territory, subject to conditions.—

Herald.

LIFE IN VICTORIA GAOL.

(Continued.)

V.

"It is in regard to sins in which we are found out that we may say or sing (in an undertone, in a most penitent and lugubrious voice) 'misere nobis, miseris fecimus tortus'."

Thackeray.

Gao is intended for people who have done wrong, and the system that has been evolved since my first posted his forces."

"The house within us is dead."

has been directed, at least lately, first to the punishment, and secondly to the reformation, of the offender. The post of Superintendent of a gaol cannot be pleasant to a man who is "full of the milk of human kindness." In the first place it necessarily compels a prisoner should be deprived of anything which approaches comfort. I have always tried to show, in the second, that the "tort" is the most proper for this purpose, the harshness of the "tort" and expense which is the "value" of import and exports alike are increments which account

to them as the result of causes affecting them in and for China, and that China has no share in any exterior increments of value of her exports, which are taken from her by vessels owned by people residing outside her bound. However, for this assessment, it has to be known that the market prices of foreign opium at Foochow, Tincow, and Canton exclude duty and likin, and at Shanghai also; but the Shanghai Customs, to preserve continuity with its values of next years, when price everywhere included the duty, adds *Hk. Tls.* 30 as duty to the market price in calculating its values; and at the statistics from which these tables are compiled are practically, even as regards opium, supplied for the north and central China by the Shanghai office, out of the total import there remained only 30,923 piculs the prices of which included the likin as well as duty, and there were 9,043 piculs even the duty of which was not included in the price. From the opium values, therefore, one has to deduct for duty and likin not the entire collection, but only so much of it as entered into the prices from which the values were taken. What that amount was is easily calculated, namely, 30,923 piculs by 110 = *Hk. Tls.* 3,401,530 by 25/59 by 30 = *Hk. Tls.* 1,072,770, or *Hk. Tls.* 4,474,300 in all. There are other minor allowances which must be made if exact results are wanted, but in this brief report it suffices to handle these statistics generally.

European prisoners participate," according to our morning contemporary, was not an evidence during my term of residence." As I have tried to convey in previous articles, hard work, poor diet, unquestioning obedience, and complete silence are the order of the day—to offend is to suffer. Some officers will overlook the exchange of an occasional word—others will report a man almost for a whisper. To have failed to complete the task of "oakum-picking," to drop the shot, carry away food for consumption at leisure in the cell, possess anything that has not been served out, cast a contentious glance at an officer, move without asking leave—all these things, and very many more, constitute grounds for report, and a rule

comes for his immediate release, just as the triangles were being put up!

VI.

"Back to thy punishment!  
False fugitive, and to thy speed add wings."

*Paradise Lost.*

The flogging to which I refer yesterday is of course the extreme punishment, ordered only in cases of unyielding refusal to work, or for the most serious offences. Deprivation of rations, removal from the compatriotship enjoyed in "associated" cells, and fettlers, are usually resorted to for ordinary offences among the Chinese. The fettlers weigh about three pounds, and consist of chains affixed to each ankle and held up by the belt—little more than an inconvenience, as the wearer goes clanking about with them. On occasion cases arise which the Superintendent considers deserve heavier punishment than he can award, and, in one case, was taken up with a rattle, a Chinese sweetmeat, on the off-chance of its reaching his ex-mates. Over comes the packet, snuff enough, but nine times out of ten it is ill-aimed, and anything more tantalising than to see the coveted articles lying on the netting just out of reach, with an officer proceeding to rake it in, you could not imagine. Of course the Chinamen pretend they haven't the faintest idea what it is, or what it contains, so no one is punished.

VII.

"The insolence of office, and the spurns

That patient (prisoner) of the unworthy take."

*Hamlet*, slightly altered.

One of the most important factors in the proper conduct of such an establishment is having good and efficient officers. Writing of the personnel of the Gaol in December 1883—when there could scarcely be any instruction of personal bias—I wrote that "the officials may truly be characterised as ignorant, lazy, and intemperate ne'er-do-wells, deficient in almost all the qualities which men in their position ought to possess. Many of the Europeans have been bench-combines, the walls and strays of the ruin mills in Tsin-ping which resounded in the neighbouring streets, a large space in the brick wall was half-pierced, and with very little more trouble the men could get out when they chose. They would then find themselves on the 'lean-to' roof in the European yard, from whence it would be easy to drop on the unsuspecting Sikh who drowsily perambulated his beat. His shift would be short and, then it would be but a moment's work to scale the wall and join the confederates who were in all probability awaiting them on the other side. Unfortunately the ill-health of the Superintendent precluded the carrying-out of a counter-plot, by which they were to have been seized by a strong party as they emerged from the hole, which would have been more dramatic than to simply order them into another cell, examine the patched-up wall, and take out the tools from the hiding-place. The latter was done, however, and it was then found that several window-bars had been also sawn through. A Court was convened next day, the informer detailed the way in which the plan was perfected, and the ringleader was sentenced to 24 strokes, one or two of the more active received by a sailor who had been a year older in appearance. And a magistrate can sentence a man to fourteen days there, with only one day o

grace each week.

The chief offenders are talking and having tobacco. Be he who he may, almost a prisoner will get tobacco somehow. Exchanging brand with Chinese is the general way of obtaining it. How they get it they alone know. Still, the fact remains that they do, and on occasion even a cigar can be come by. Chewing is the principal use the weed is put to, and I have known an officer suddenly seize by the throat a man whom he suspected of having a quid, and tell him to open his mouth, to make sure. If the man couldn't swallow quicker than the turnkey could, grab it was a case of very frugal fare for the next few days. Sometimes a few small plugs of cake tobacco will be thrown over the wall into the yard, and the officer will see them. He at once orders the men near by to stand up and strip, and proceeds to search first them, and then their clothing. And yet in spite of all they will conceal the treasured luxury sometimes.

The Chinese are punished much oftener than the foreign prisoners, especially for idleness, when their relative number is considered. The way they look at the matter is this—if they do their task, picking oakum or whatever it is, they will get 20 cts. of rice a day, and have to work hard for it; if they do nothing they will get 15, and that is quite as much as they want—especially if they are only in for a week or so. So, day after day, numbers of them are arraigned for refusing to work, with utter indifference. If they have risen to the dignity of a billet they are more careful, as a slip will not only entail the loss of the position but may consign the offender to crank labor for a week. All Chinese prisoners on penal labor have to work at crank, and turn a wheel, lifting a dead weight of 12 lbs., 20,000 times a day. Sometimes they won't do it, and, tying their belt to the bell-wire or cage-gate, start to hang themselves. Frequently they are caught, and reported for "tying to strange themselves." It is difficult to punish a man who doesn't mind hanging, but a caution may be given, or he may be threatened with a flogging next time—if he doesn't outrun the constable by succeeding. If it is a simple case of point-blank refusal to work, his case is worse—he is almost certain to be flogged. This is to be done in public, but now-a-days the doctor and a few officers are alone present. I have a quiet private view of one of these flagellations one morning, and I never want to see another. A stalwart Swede (in consideration of some two or three dollars a month extra) officiates, the instrument of punishment being a ratchet about an inch thick and five or six feet long. The recalcitrant prisoner stands against an apparatus not easy to describe; it is something like a household's "pair of steps" only that it is very strong, and there is only one big rung, against which the prisoner leans. His feet are tied to each side of the ladder, and his hands, tied above his head. The flogger, divested of his coat, stands on the right-hand side, grasping the terrible twain with nervous firmness. As the head officer presents calls, out, "One" he swings the cane with a loud "swish," to take aim, then sweeping it back into position, delivers a cut with all his might, leaving a long red weal, on the flesh, and generally extorting a sharp "Ha!" from the prisoner. "Two," and the cane, after its almost equally terrible "swish-swish" fall on the same spot. The flogger is hauled up too tightly to move, but his body quivers in every fibre. Before half a dozen (the usual number for refusing to work) crank are delivered the blood begins to flow, and if more strokes are to be endured his eyelids are often seen to close—the only indication he can give that insensibility has met with him. It is a terrible punishment, extremely unpleasant to inflict, even, but it is necessary. Without it discipline would be an unknown quantity among the horde of pirates and thieves who form so large a proportion of the inmates. A few months ago—about November last, for instance—it was grossly overdone, flogging were of daily occurrence, on the slightest offence, and so many strokes were given that the men had to be hospitalized. The whole performance is superfluous, it is a soft, sharp-eyed officer found out that it was another man, who had changed clothes with the man who ought to be punished—for a consideration. To prevent disappointment, they were both sent to crank.

As a check on the Gaol officials a couple of Visiting Justices go round nearly every week—one a Government servant, the other a plain J. P. They visit every part of the building, accompanied by the Chinese clerk, who

action on behalf of these friendless, characterless, hopeless men.

VIII.  
"Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort  
As if he scorned himself and mocked his spirit.  
That could be moved to smile at anything!"

*Julius Caesar.*

It would not be an altogether complete description of existence in Gaol if I omitted to include a few brighter gleams as some relief to the black shadows hitherto prevailing in these poor pictures. A prisoner's existence is not all shot, drill and skilly; he has a few weak pleasures. He can get a rum once a week, for instance, so long as he is not undergoing punishment! There is a Prisoners' Library comprising about fifty volumes, which for dullness and dryness are unrivaled. In the dim past some Colonial Chaplains got a few dollars granted by Government to organise a library, and he bought a lot of good little story-books, and instructive volumes such as the "Life of Elisha." Then they were bound in sombre black, and stamped with gaol stamms on every second page, to prevent the reader from falling into the illusion that he was at his club. Any one could be read in an hour, but by carefully allowing one's self it can be spread over the week. And it is some solace to read even about William and the Buttercup, or narratives of the career of some other unnaturally good little boy. But by the kindness of the then Superintendent a few prisoners were allowed to borrow books from the Officers' Library—a privilege very highly valued by the favored few. It does seem a little incongruous, though, to see No.—devouring a three-volume novel bearing Mudie's label on the cover. Poor beggar—it helps him to forget his woes for a while, at any rate.

Christmas Day is the great festival of the year in the Hermitage. In former years one of the Judges provided a good dinner for the inmates, and since his death the Officers' Fine Fund (I believe) has been drawn on to continue the custom. An appetising breakfast of savoury stew in unlimited quantity was added last Christmas morning, and discounted the roast mutton and plum-pudding at mid-day to some extent. "For that occasion only" the battered, worn-out knives, 14th century forks, and rude iron spoons were replaced by white-handled table-ware; for the greasy tins usually served out there were nice new plates, and the couple of murderers who did the cooking quite excelled themselves. Then there were half-a-dozen oranges for dessert, and (so rumor ran) a drop of something that was mysteriously obtained by one of two lucky fellows. The majority, however, had to content themselves with the Tyrian vintage. The year before a facetious swindler employed at tailoring managed to draw up three labels—"Brandy," "Rum," and "Beer," and surreptitiously affixed them to big water-buts, to the infinite amusement of his comrades. On this day license of some such sort is allowed; the prisoners may talk without fear of bread-and-water, if they have anything to talk about. There was no work done, of course—not even by the Chinese. Like good children everyone was allowed to stay in the yards a little later than usual instead of being locked up at 4.15 p.m. And when night fell the outside public who lived within half a mile must have listened with wonder to the hearty choruses which broke the wonted stillness, and the cheers for the Founder of the Feast with which the men, invisible from each other though they were, raised their voices unitedly before discipline began to be re-assumed, to continue for the next 365 days.

There are little ways of mildly enjoying one's self on ordinary occasions, too; a quiet smile will be excited by the stale old joke (only to be risked with a few of the more amiable turnkeys) "Will you be good enough to lock my gate? I've got a lot of valuable oakum in here, and it might get stolen." One man excited general admiration among the prisoners by a pretty cool act. A turnkey was passing along the corridor one evening, smoking a cigar, when the prisoner stretched forth his hand, calmly took the cigar from between the warden's lips, and finished it in the seclusion of his cell. He didn't get reported, strange to say.

Many are the devices resorted to by both Chinese and foreign prisoners to secrete their forbidden treasures. A Celestial will hide a couple of ten-cent pieces in a little ball of was, stolen from the stores, and stick it in the angle of the wall or against the window-bar. Money is money, I need hardly say, even in jail, and a Si'ng guard will smuggle in a box of matches, or a swage (the favorite form of forbidden fruit) for a few cents. Shoes, belt, cap, coat—any article of dress, in fact—will be slit open, if a pellet of tobacco or opium can be got, notwithstanding the daily searching. I remember one long-sentence Chinese prisoner who got into trouble through his *cachet* being discovered. He was sent to crank, and even, there he contrived to get a smoke. That was taken from him, and in desperation he asked that the Chinese Catholic priest might visit him. The priest did so, and the hardened beggar, instead of listening to the ministrations he had been supposed to years for, simply said "Can't you get me a chew?"

As regards the debtors I am not in a position to speak, as they are confined apart from the rest, but I saw enough of them to make me reflect on the folly of taking a man away from all chance of satisfying his creditors and then expecting him to do so after his employment and credit have gone. But one need not have been in God to understand that.

In conclusion I would just say that, regarded fairly and without prejudice, there are no very glaring abuses existing in our local Newgate, the *personnel* wants improving, no doubt, and the accommodation is admittedly unsatisfactory, but, taking all round, the lot of the average prisoner (if he has not been so unfortunate or ill-advised as to write about the officers in an uncomplimentary way, as I was) compares favorably with that of any prisoners the world over, I believe. Those who had tried a lot of them told me so, anyhow. But it is a mighty fine place to stay out of, nevertheless.

#### THE SUICIDE OF A SOLDIER.

At the Magistracy this afternoon (28th inst.) Mr. Wise, Acting Coroner, held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Private Wallace, who shot himself on Saturday morning last at the Victoria Barracks, Queen's Road.

Inspector Bremner was in charge of the case, and the following evidence was taken:—

Dr. R. H. Smythe, Army Medical Staff, said that he was called to Victoria Barracks last Saturday, and found the deceased there. He felt the back of his head, where there was a large hole, and saw that the mouth was cut about. The cause of death was a bullet wound. The bullet had entered the mouth, passed through the palate, and thence through the head. Death must have been instantaneous. The wound was caused by a Martini-Henry bullet, which was found imbedded in the wall behind the body of deceased. From the Medical History sheet, witness found several entries against his name for epilepsy, but he was never seen by any medical man. Upon examination of the brain were found old marks of meningitis.

Private Wood, A. & S. Highlanders, said he was walking along the verandah about 9.45 a.m. in Victoria Barracks on Saturday last. He heard a report, and running to a window whence the

sound had come saw a man sitting on the bed with a rifle against his breast, the butt being on the floor.

Private Herbert, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased was subject to fits, but was of sober habits. On Saturday morning he seemed all right. He had fallen over the verandah once during a fit.

Sergeant Irvine, A. & S. Highlanders, said that he left the deceased cleaning his rifle. He afterwards heard the deceased had shot himself upon witness's bed. He drank a little, but a small quantity of liquor used to bring on the fits. Witness did not know if the deceased was in any trouble.

Capt. Sgt. T. Boyd, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased had been five years and a half in the Regiment, and was 24 years old. He was more subject to fits after drinking.

A. Worthy found that the cause of death was a self-inflicted bullet wound.

#### THE UNOFFICIAL MEMBERS AND THE GOVERNOR.

##### AN EXPLANATION.

We have been requested to publish the following correspondence:—

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
Hongkong, 15th April, 1891.

GENTLEMEN.—I have the honour by direction of the Governor to acknowledge His Excellency's receipt of a letter dated 14th April, 1891, and written by you as representing the unofficial members of the Legislative Council now present in the Colony with reference to a recent motion in Council to the effect that the Colony is not now in a position to pay the increased salaries recently recommended by the unofficial members.

2. The signatures of this letter inform the Governor that it is their intention to memorialise the Secretary of State on the subject, and request that this intention may be notified to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, for the Colonies by telegram. His Excellency has directed me to state in reply that he hopes in the course of a few days to be able to make known the course which he proposes to take after giving this important subject his full consideration.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) W. M. DEANE,  
Actg. Colonial Secretary.

The Hon. P. RYRIE.  
" J. J. KESWICK.  
" HO KAI.  
" T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hongkong, 27th April, 1891.

His Excellency the Governor.

Sir.—On the afternoon of Saturday the 25th instant, I was favored with a letter from the Acting Colonial Secretary enquiring whether his communication dated 15th instant had been received by me. I desire to inform Your Excellency that the despatch in question never reached my hands. It appears to have been left at my office in my absence, and to have been mislaid.

Neither my colleagues nor myself were aware of the existence of that letter when ours of the 24th instant was prepared and sent in.

Very much regret, and so do my colleagues, that such an accident should have happened, and that an impression should have been left on the public mind that Your Excellency had not even acknowledged the receipt of our first letter. This mistake will at once be corrected by the publication of this letter, but the Unofficial Members have still to express their regret that Your Excellency's reply to their letter of the 14th, as distinguished from its acknowledgment, was so long delayed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,  
Your Excellency's most obedient and humble servant,  
(Signed) P. RYRIE.

#### SUBSIDISED RELIGION IN HONGKONG.

The Trustees of St. John's Cathedral have forwarded us a copy of a petition which, we assume, has recently been forwarded to the Secretary of State, urging that the determination arrived at by the Home Government in 1881—that on the retirement of the then Colonial Chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Jennings) all ecclesiastical grants from Government, so far as the colony of Hongkong is concerned, should cease—be rescinded and that the present endowment should be continued. The reasons given by the petitioners speak for themselves; whether they are worth consideration or are absolutely worthless is a mere matter of opinion, but we hold that the principle of the vast majority of the taxpayers of this colony being called upon to pay for a system of religious worship with which they do not agree, and which has for many years been maintained at the public expense for the benefit of an insignificant minority, is radically unsound and cannot be justified. The Scotch Church in Hongkong has been self-supporting since its first establishment years ago; if the English Church cannot support itself, Mr. Parkes at this point attended on behalf of the applicant. He had nothing to say.

Mr. Sharp:—I have already reported that the man bears an excellent character.

The Chairman said that the applicant gave as references Mr. Koch, the Secretary of the German Club, Mr. Niedhart, and a Mr. Schmidt. Had Mr. Sharp anything to say?

Mr. Sharp:—I would only make reference to Mr. Horrocks.

Mr. Horrocks:—I have already reported that the man bears an excellent character.

The Chairman said:—But as to the desirability of a restaurant of such a nature in this situation?

Mr. Horrocks:—The police report is that it is not necessary, and I still say that.

The Magistrate's Clerk said that Mr. Caldwell was to have appeared for the applicant, though he had not arrived yet.

The Chairman could take no notice of that; as he was not present. Was there anything further, for or against?

Mr. Sharp had to present to his Worship, and his fellow Justices three petitions in this matter. Mr. Sharp had to present to his Worship, and his fellow Justices three petitions in this matter. Mr. Parkes at this point attended on behalf of the applicant. He had nothing to say.

Mr. Sharp:—The Acting Captain Superintendent has just remarked that the only objection the Police have in the matter is that a house licensed to sell intoxicating liquors in this position is not needed. The three petitions which I have to present against the granting of this application are supported and vouched for by the Rev. H. G. Bondfield, of Union Church, and the Rev. D. Hamilton, Naval Chaplain.

The Petition of the Undersigned Residents of Hongkong:

That whereas a former Secretary of State for the Colonies, in a despatch dated the 12th July, 1881, announced to the then Governor of the Colony that the system of grants for ecclesiastical purposes in this Colony would be gradually discontinued as the offices of the present recipients became vacant;

And whereas your Petitioners are firmly convinced that it would be injurious to the welfare of the Colony that this step should be taken;

Your Petitioners humbly beg that the decision which has been arrived at may be reconsidered, and that the Church of England as here established may continue in the enjoyment of the moderate endowment which has hitherto been provided by the State, for the following reasons:—

1. Because the same reasons which existed for rescinding the decision to withdraw the Government Grant for ecclesiastical purposes in the Straits Settlements—a Crown colony like Hongkong—obtain now in this Colony.

2. Because there are certain offices, often of immediate necessity, such as religious attendance upon the destitute sick, marriages, burials (always pressing in this climate), the management of charities and distribution of charitable funds, for the performance of which no one could be held responsible except a clergyman supported out of the public funds.

3. Because the Gaol and Hospital always contain lame folk to whose religious wants, in the absence of a clergyman dedicated to visit them, there would in many cases be no one to administer.

4. Because the Chinese, who contribute at least nine-tenths of the revenue of the Colony, have no objections to the continuance of grants for ecclesiastical purposes.

5. Because the Chinese, though not availing themselves in large numbers of the services

provided by such grants, have for their part been endowed out of public funds with a hospital exclusively devoted to themselves, have had a liberal education placed within their reach at a merely nominal charge and enjoy many other concessions involving an outlay estimated to be not far short of \$1,200,000, while many temple sites are held by them free or at a merely nominal Crown rent.

6. Because the expenses in connection with the support of a clergyman, clerk, &c., not salaried upon witness's bed. He drank a little, but a small quantity of liquor used to bring on the fits. Witness did not know if the deceased was in any trouble.

Capt. Sgt. T. Boyd, A. & S. Highlanders, said that the deceased was subject to fits, but was of sober habits. On Saturday morning he seemed all right. He had fallen over the verandah once during a fit.

Sergeant Irvine, A. & S. Highlanders, said that he left the deceased cleaning his rifle. He afterwards heard the deceased had shot himself upon witness's bed. He drank a little, but a small quantity of liquor used to bring on the fits. Witness did not know if the deceased was in any trouble.

7. Because in the case of many officials such a contribution would be out of the question, whilst it would prove a large additional tax upon non-officials, to whom constant appeals are being made on behalf of religion and charity.

8. Because in the probable event of the inability of the officials, and especially non-officials to bear this expense, not only will these two classes be deprived of the benefits of the regular services of the Church of England, but a large portion of the community who frequent the Cathedral and are not in a position to pay such rent, will be turned adrift and be practically cut off from their wonted public religious exercises.

9. Because all sections of the Church of England, whether Broad, High, Low, &c., now worship together and tolerate the present form of service; if, however, the salary of a clergyman depended on the congregation, there are fears that the supporters of various sections would not carry much weight with him. One was from a body which went in, for total abstinence, and which would abolish all licences if it could; and another was from a religious body, though this was not a religious question. If the local householders had expressed any opinion, that would carry weight.

10. Because all the change contemplated will affect a small, if any saving in Government money, for public opinion will require the services of an official clergyman in the Gaol and Hospital, public property the presence of a responsible clergyman to undertake the burial of the dead, and public convenience due facilities for the performance of the rites of matrimony.

11. Because the only expenditure that would be retrenched by the abolition of grants for ecclesiastical purposes would be a salary nominally of £600, but really of £600, paid to the Colonial Chaplain and representing little more than remuneration for the necessary services of burying the dead, attendance at the gaol, at hospitals, &c.

12. Because if this salary be withdrawn, the Colony will have to pay nearly, if not quite, as much in allowances for these services, thus substituting a precarious and unsatisfactory arrangement for one which works to the satisfaction of all concerned.

13. Because the determination to abolish all grants for ecclesiastical purposes on the death or retirement of the present incumbents is not called for by any popular demand. On the contrary, the almost unanimous opinion of the whole Colony, embracing as it does many nationalities and creeds, which is evidenced by the signatures to this petition, is wholly adverse to the course proposed.

14. Because the aforesaid policy should not, regardless of the circumstances of the case, be needlessly imposed upon an unwilling community which, administering its own revenue, is particularly interested in guarding against its misappropriation.

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16. Because the aforesaid policy should not, regardless of the circumstances of the case, be needlessly imposed upon an unwilling community which, administering its own revenue, is particularly interested in guarding against its misappropriation.

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# THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1891.

## LOCAL AND GENERAL

A NATIVE contemporary in notifying the opening of the tea season at Tamsui, remarks that the prospects of the trade are not very promising this year.

We observe that Mr. José Augusto do Rosario has been officially recognised as vice-consul for Mexico at this port. Mexico has got a lot to be thankful for.

We note that Mr. Charles, British Consul at Chinkiang, goes home on a year's leave at the end of the present month. He will be relieved by Mr. A. Allen, from Amoy.

There is reported to be much sickness in Bangkok just now. Two Europeans have succumbed to cholera, and the *Gazette* says the Chinamen are dying off like flies.

The *Hupao* reports that an epidemic has made its appearance in Wuhu, to which many of the official class have succumbed, while deaths have been numerous among the lower classes.

The match for the Lawn Tennis Championship between W. H. Wallace and G. S. Coxon, which was to have taken place this afternoon (27th Inst.), has been postponed owing to the former gentleman's indisposition.

The *Sabu-kao* says that the Emperor will shortly review the Shun-chi camp and also the Peking naval forces, when the Krupp guns, quick-firing, Gallions, torpedoes, and electric search-lights will all be exhibited.

It is our informant's statement that Mr. C. J. Holliday's *Sancho* in "The Contrabandists" was a particularly good caricature of Governor de Vexx. It was a weak and contemptible falsehood. It was the best caricature of "Brownie" himself we have ever seen.

A YUNNAN correspondent writes to *L'Avant du Tonkin* that a revolt has occurred in the prefecture of Po- Mon Yem, and two civil mandarins killed. The Viceroy has sent 2,000 men to quell the outbreak. He adds that there has not been a drop of rain all winter, and the opium crop has been completely lost.

THE bodies of the nineteen men who were executed at Kowloon City ten days ago are buried on the spot. In three or four rough graves, near by a sort of frail horizontal bar, made of bamboo, have been erected, and hanging therefrom, in a ghastly row, is a string of rude wooden cages, each containing a putrefying head.

We note that Messrs. Crofton and Hamilton are managing the "Ida Poli Rossa" Operatic Concert Company, now performing in Singapore. As these gentlemen engineered the Brown Potter combination, we presume that the projected visit of the American actress and Mr. Kyle to the Far East has either been delayed or abandoned.

THE editors of several native newspapers in Dai-Nippon have taken umbrage at the name *Empress of Japan* having been given to one of the Canadian Pacific Co.'s new steamers. They look upon it with a certain amount of suspicion that the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India aspires to become Empress of Japan!

A RINGER telegram from Madrid is published in the Manila papers which implies that the \$10,000 paid by the Spanish Government for the "unstable" cruiser *Filipinas* is to be devoted to the purchase of a torpedo-boat of the same name. Another good thing for the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., presumably—if they will take any more orders from that quarter!

THE Consular report on the trade of Siam for 1890, says the *Bangkok Times*, show that there has been a marked improvement in the amounts of imports and exports, as compared with those of 1889. The excess of the total export trade of 1890 over that of 1889 amounts to \$5,540,032, while the excess of the total imports of 1890, compared with those of the preceding year, show an increase of \$6,186,579.

THE mortal remains of Capt. J. P. Hoyland, of the Steamboat Co.'s service, were interred in the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley, on the 28th Inst., in the presence of a large assemblage of mourners, which included the Hon. P. Ryde and many old residents of the colony, friends of the deceased. The service was read by the Rev. A. G. Goldsmith, and singularly enough poor Hoyland was laid to rest alongside his old Macao friend, Professor Hart-Miller, sub-editor of this Journal at the time of his death, nearly two years ago.

INTELLIGENCE from Shensi, according to a native paper, is to the effect that rich deposits of iron and coal have been found in the prefecture of Cheh-Chiu. It is now proposed to open up mines in the five districts of Fung Tai, Kao Ping, Yang Shu, Ling Chueh, and Shing Shan, in the Cheh-Chiu prefecture. The local capitalists have reported the find to the provincial authorities, begging them to petition the Throne to sanction the forming of a company for the purpose of working the mines. The ores are pronounced to be superior to those from the Kaiping mines.

THE fourteenth ordinary general meeting of the North China Insurance Co., Limited, was held in Shanghai on April 20th. There was a large attendance of shareholders, and Mr. E. H. Lavers presided. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. F. H. Bell, the Report and Accounts as presented, were unanimously passed; and on the proposition of Mr. A. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Möller, Messrs. F. H. Bell, D. Brand, J. F. Seaman, H. R. Hearn, E. H. Lavers, W. D. Little, and A. G. Wood, were elected directors for the ensuing year. Messrs. Augustus White and A. Burman were appointed auditors.

THE Tientsin correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes under date the 18th Inst.:—The European foremen, viewers, overmen and others employed on the railway and colliery works at Tongkhan having demanded of the Directors the immediate arrest of the Cantonese who made the assault on Mr. Burns, and the demand not being complied with, they left the works in a body on Sunday the 13th and came to Tientsin, where they reported themselves to the British Consul and claimed his protection and assistance. The Consul informed the men on Monday that he'd already seen the Viceroy, who had sent up pre-emptory orders to arrest the ring-leaders and bring them down to Tientsin. He also informed them that the Engineer-in-chief would be in Tientsin the following day and advised them to be ready to return with him to the works on Wednesday. Mr. Kildare did not turn up, however, and it was not till the 16th that they received a telegram from the works stating that the five ring-leaders had been arrested and sent down to Tientsin. The men, therefore, returned to the works by the first train on Friday the 17th. When they arrived, they soon found that they had been deceived, for the Cantonese had not been arrested, but had been allowed to leave the place and were supposed to be on their way to Shanghai. Meanwhile the Colliery had been getting on quite well without the Europeans. What the "upshot" will be is yet uncertain, but strained relations between the men and the directors of the works cannot be avoided. The wounded had judging fairly well, decided to get away.

The deaths in Hongkong for the first quarter of the present year totalled 1,341, against 1,200 births. Amongst foreigners, singularly enough, the births and deaths ran a dead heat—fifty each.

The *Shanghai Mercury* learns that the local share-brokers are at last taking steps to form themselves into an association, by which some sort of understanding can be arrived at as to a uniform scale of commissions.

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THE match for the Lawn Tennis Championship between W. H. Wallace and G. S. Coxon, which was to have taken place this afternoon (27th Inst.), has been postponed owing to the former gentleman's indisposition.

The *Sabu-kao* says that the Emperor will shortly review the Shun-chi camp and also the Peking naval forces, when the Krupp guns, quick-firing, Gallions, torpedoes, and electric search-lights will all be exhibited.

It is our informant's statement that "another search is shortly to be made for Korea's Mineral Wealth," as he understands that quite a party is going to set out next month in search of that doubtful quality; this time the expedition is going to be particularly successful throughout, the dancing of the *cauchaka*, as on previous occasions, proving the most successful item in the bill of fare.

IN consequence of the death of Capt. Hoyland, the popular skipper of the *Fathian*, the following changes have taken place in the commands of the Steamboat Company's vessels: Capt. Risby, of the *White Cloud*, takes command of the *Fathian*, Capt. Crookshank of the *Kiungchow*, is transferred to the *White Cloud*, and Mr. Webster, chief of the *Horizon*, is promoted to the command of the *Kiungchow*.

THE Seoul correspondent of the *Shanghai Mercury* states that "another search is shortly to be made for Korea's Mineral Wealth," as he understands that quite a party is going to set out next month in search of that doubtful quality; this time the expedition is going to be particularly successful throughout, the dancing of the *cauchaka*, as on previous occasions, proving the most successful item in the bill of fare.

THE *German* steamer *Pollux*, Captain H. Hellmari, seems to be a marked ship with our French neighbours. More than once she has had serious trouble with the Custom authorities at Saigon, the captain getting out of Coast with several hundreds of dollars less than when he entered,—all owing to Chinese members of his crew attempting to run a few bills of opium. The *Pollux*, on her last trip, a week ago, again got into trouble owing to some of the crew smuggling four small tins of opium in a paint pot, the smugglers hoping that the smell of the paint would overpower that of the drug. The drug was spotted, and the captain punished in the sum of \$300. The latter has got into trouble with John Chinaman this trip though by stopping their wages and giving them notice to make themselves scarce.

A LITTLE man with ancient history was broken when, about a fortnight ago, Mr. John Velge died at his residence in Malacca, where he was one of the oldest, if not the very oldest, of Straits residents. He was over 91 years of age, and his recollections of the early years of the century were very curious. He could tell of the blowing up of the Dutch fort in Malacca in 1807, when the English by exchange took over that settlement. He was a sailor, and owned small sailing vessels for many years, making voyages to different parts in India, Sumatra, and Java, towards the beginning of this century, of which places he used to relate very interesting anecdotes. He made a considerable amount of money and retired, living for some time in Singapore, where he was very hospitable. For many years he had lived in Malacca, where he was very much honoured and respected.

THE HAPPY BANKER.—Who is he? That every junior clerk should wish to be? It is the careful spirit whose strong bent is money-making—heaping cent on cent—Who, doomed to go in early, shide or raze, Ard at the office late at night remain, Turns his necessity to glorious gain." Well brushed his hair; spotless his cuffs and collar; Sings like a bird but works as hard as dollars. Of conversation has an easy flow. The cheerful yes, the firm but courteous no; A fluent pen, cogent, concise and clear; To all men's confidence a ready ear; Capacity for cocktails and the power To eat, drink, think, read, write, talk by the hour, He knows all men, all women, and their price, Can fix them and their business in a trice. And tho' a common drudge 'twix man and man Drawn from them all the interest he can. Then as he rises in the world he learns To feel the public pulse—the great concerns Of many a mighty empire and its doom Are settled off-hand in his private room. Who, whether dining at a Lord Mayor's feast Or banking dollars in the "Gorgeous East," Weighs with reason of the Council board, Or frivolously upon the grassy award, Keeps his mind open and his temper cool And lives for ever by the golden rule. This is the happy banker, this is he. That ever junior clerk should wish to be.

THE ST. GEORGE'S BALL was held at Shanghai on the night of the 23rd Inst. The *N. C. Daily News* reports that 260 guests of Pomerry and Greno were consumed, likewise a baron of beef weighing 155 lbs., of which only the bones remained next morning, so that the guests must have had an enjoyable time. Why didn't our contemporary, after throwing all canons of good taste to the winds, also state how many whiskies and sodas were drunk, and give a lot more delicate information in the same direction? Journalism must surely be in dire straits in Shanghai, when the assumed leading newspaper gets so low down as to count the bottles of champagne consumed at a public ball and to publish the figures in its report of the celebration.

THE manager of the Punjum Company, Mr. Blamey, the only reliable man that has ever occupied that responsible position so far as we can make out, writes as follows:—"Guban, a fine prospect; sample three ounces of gold have been shipped. Wait for my letter of to-day (April 21st). Mills are idle for want of water." The Secretary of the Punjum Company (Mr. A. O'D. Gourdin) explains that this telegram indicates that the trial crushing of Guban reef stuff has been most satisfactory, and that a sample is being forwarded here to show the good quality of the gold. Visitors of Freddie's never-to-be-forgotten paper-weight of the pure metal, extracted from Punjom ore—but there, what's the use of dragging out comic scenes from the played-out comedies of long ago? If any decent sort of gold has been found at this most visionary and disappointing of modern *El Dorados* so much the better for the unfortunate shareholders if it not well, *marks*. The milling referred to, says Mr. Gourdin, "is at Jalls, and the stoppage can only be temporary, and is probably due to some accident to the water race." We shall probably see Punjums booming up amongst the fifties within the next six months, if all tales we hear be true.

—N. C. Daily News.

MR. E. W. MAITLAND, Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial Hospital, begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the hospital:—

Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. .... \$100  
H. N. Murdy, Esq. .... 100  
Messrs. Douglas, Lapraik & Co. .... 50  
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Charles J. Hirsh, Esq. .... 50  
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J. L. Chuton, Esq. .... 5  
C. Ford, Esq. .... 5  
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W. Thomas, Esq. .... 5  
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A "Parsie" .... 5  
W. T. Tarn, Esq. .... 5  
Rev. R. F. F. Gotschalk, Esq. .... 5

THE deaths in Hongkong for the first quarter of the present year totalled 1,341, against 1,200 births. Amongst foreigners, singularly enough, the births and deaths ran a dead heat—fifty each.

The *Shanghai Mercury* learns that the local share-brokers are at last taking steps to form themselves into an association, by which some sort of understanding can be arrived at as to a uniform scale of commissions.

We note that Mr. José Augusto do Rosario has been officially recognised as vice-consul for Mexico at this port. Mexico has got a lot to be thankful for.

We note that Mr. Charles, British Consul at Chinkiang, goes home on a year's leave at the end of the present month. He will be relieved by Mr. A. Allen, from Amoy.

There is reported to be much sickness in Bangkok just now. Two Europeans have succumbed to cholera, and the *Gazette* says the Chinamen are dying off like flies.

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THE members of the Hongkong Chinoi Society gave their third and final representation of "The Contrabandists" at the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Saturday, 11th inst. There was only a moderate attendance, but the performance was fairly successful throughout, the dancing of the *cauchaka*, as on previous occasions, proving the most successful item in the bill of fare.

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A GENTLEMAN who visited the Tytan water works on the 26th inst. informs us that, to his unprofessional eye, "there didn't seem as much water left as would keep a castle baling half an hour." May be the Colonial Chaplain will use his influence with Jupiter, Pluvius, or whoever is the celestial Water Authority, since our mandarins official can't work the crook.

For expensive tea China can run Ceylon pretty close when she tries. The firm of Toknoff, Molotoff, & Co., a month before the recent visit of the Catechist to Hankow, sent commissioners into the country to get this season's tea, so as to be able to present exquisite samples, and the young tea picked thus early had turned out so satisfactory that some of this tea was valued at \$15, 3,500 the picul, or nearly £6 the pound.

ON the 27th inst. Inspector Stanton, with a party of Police, arrested Chan Aping and Li Achung on a warrant charging them with having committed murder and burglary at a village named Sa Ching, in the province of Kwangtung, on the 21st July, 1889. The prisoners were arrested in the Kung-heung eating house, Centre Street, whence they had been decoyed. The prisoners denied the charge, and the case was remanded for a week.

At the Police Court on the 27th Inst., before Mr. Wise, Chin Lai was charged on remand with committing a piracy, with others not in custody, on the 16th inst., upon a boat near Cape Collinson. Inspector Stanton gave evidence of the prisoner's arrest at Tok-A-Wan on the 16th Inst., by a body of Police, and proof of his identity by the crew of the pirated boat closed the case.

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at a heavy discount, is extremely insignificant as compared with the total paid-up capital of local joint stock companies, which are at a premium, and for the most part at a very high premium.

Taking up the list of local enterprises published in the daily journals I find that the shares of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, with a paid-up capital of \$9,300,000, backed as it now is by a reserve fund of over a million sterling, are worth now in the aggregate about \$28,000,000. The shares of the two local Fire Insurance Companies, with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$3,000,000, are quoted in the one case at \$500 and in the other at 300 per cent. premium. The shares of the local Marine Insurance Companies, with aggregate capital of \$1,310,000, are quoted at nearly 300 per cent., 350 per cent., and 300 per cent. premium, respectively. Carrying my eye down the list I find the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company shares (with a paid-up capital of \$1 million dollars) are at 98 per cent. premium, while those of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, on which an aggregate of \$1,000,000 is paid-up, are now worth over \$1,500,000; the China and Manilla Steam Navigation Company's shares, with paid-up capital of \$175,000, are at about 150 per cent.; and the \$1,600,000 paid-up capital of the Canton and Macao Steamboat Company is worth \$2,600,000. Similarly the shares of seven other companies (China Sugar Company, Hongkong Land Investment Company, Société des Charbonnages du Tonkin, Hongkong Hotel Company, Humphreys' Estate and Finance Company, A. S. Watson & Co., Hongkong Ice Company) principally owned in Hongkong, on which was originally paid \$6,221,000, are now worth \$12,410,000, which, added to the figures representing the paid-up capital and present market value of the Hongkong Bank and the six companies just mentioned, give a total of \$22,100,500 paid in respect of shares which are now worth \$55,177,500. This, however, gives only a partial view of the situation. A more complete view is furnished by the following statements and figures supplied to me by the Registrar of Public Companies:—

"At the end of the year 1887 there were 26 public companies whose shares were dealt in the Hongkong market, having an aggregate paid-up capital of \$26,331,000 and the market value of which was then \$4,679,025. In 1888 three of these companies went into liquidation and a fourth reduced its capital by \$175,000, and at the end of the same year the 23 remaining companies represented a paid-up capital of \$25,153,000 and a market value of \$4,355,325, or an increase in the market value of the 23 companies for the year 1888 of \$2,021,200. In the same year the shares of 13 additional companies were placed on the Hongkong market, representing a paid-up capital of \$1,709,640 and a market value at the end of 1888 of \$5,596,000, giving an increase for the year of 10 companies, \$2,634,640 in paid-up capital and \$7,011,200 in market value. Thus at the end of 1888, there were 36 companies with an aggregate paid-up capital of \$28,867,640, the market value of which was \$53,951,325. Two of the companies (with a total paid-up capital of \$200,000) are now being wound up, but the aggregate values of the shares of the remaining 34 amount at present to \$64,421,050 showing an increase (after deducting \$1,715,000 net increase to capital) of \$8,774,725 as compared with December, 1888. In addition to the above 34 companies there are 20 new companies registered since December, 1888, whose shares are dealt in the Hongkong market. The total paid-up capital of these 20 companies is \$13,632,310 and the aggregate market value of this capital is \$12,779,500 showing a depreciation in the value of these new companies of \$912,810 as compared with the paid-up capital. A further analysis shows that of these 20 companies the aggregate market value of the shares of 15 of them is \$4,800,940 in excess of their total paid-up capital, while in 14 of the 20 there is a depreciation to the extent of \$5,627,750 below the paid-up capital. Of the 14 latter companies 7 are new companies engaged in purely local business, the shares of which are depreciated below paid-up capital to the extent of \$56,000 only, and the remaining 7 companies, whose shares show a depreciation of \$12,167,750 below paid-up capital, are companies whose businesses or enterprises are situated entirely outside the colony. There are now therefore 54 public companies with a paid-up capital of \$44,074,050 and a market value of \$77,200,550, as against 20 companies in 1887 with a paid-up capital of \$26,331,000 and a market value of \$4,679,025, and 30 companies in 1888 with a paid-up capital of \$18,867,640 and a market value of \$53,951,325, showing an increase in the last 31 years of 28 companies, \$17,841,920 paid-up capital, and \$30,330,425 market value."

Compared therefore either with what may be called the figures of special success, or with the figures of all companies successful or unsuccessful, the figures of failure, or threatening failure, are puny indeed, and it is to be borne in mind that the present is a time when, owing to losses in speculation, all such securities are probably under their normal value. Now notwithstanding the fact that the shares of most of these companies were in 1880 driven up by speculation to a price considerably higher than at present, I venture to think that from the point of view of the share market, there is nothing pointing to any serious or permanent decline of prosperity; indeed after a careful survey of the position at this critical period I believe that any competent and impartial judge would say with confidence that the business of the colony is as far as it is conducted by joint stock companies is generally in a very sound condition.

Happy there are indications pointing in the same direction from several other quarters. Though the absence of returns renders it impossible to speak with certainty as regards Exports and Imports, it is satisfactory to find that the shipping statistics of last year point to an increasing rather than a decreasing trade. According to the recent report of the Harbour Master, the tonnage of vessels entering and clearing from Hongkong reached in 1890 the enormous figure of 1,31 million tons—or considerably higher than those of any former year and exceeding by 1,000,000 tons those of 1889. It would thus appear that my anticipation of 1889 is showing itself to be correct, and that trade in other directions is compensating for the deficit caused by the decaying tea export, and the stoppage of emigration to Australia and the United States. And while on the subject of Emigration, I may mention that the accounts recently received of the condition of the Chinese in Mexico are so favourable, that if they should be confirmed I think it only right that the Government should encourage the emigration thither which it is desired to conduct from Hongkong. If it is true, as I am informed, that Mexico will welcome all the free Chinese which can be sent there, I shall expect that in no long time the trade which will spring up with that rich country—rich I mean in its soil and its minerals—will not only equal but surpass all that has been lost by the restrictive laws in the United States and Australia. But, however, this may be, the correctness of the indication from tonnage that the volume of trade is increasing was signally confirmed only the other day since I began the examination of this question, by the statistical report of the Chinese Customs for the last year (for a copy of which I am indebted to the kindness of Sir Robert Hart and the local Commissioner). Though I have not had time yet to examine carefully all the figures, it suffices for my purpose to take the figures showing the value of the

general trade between China and Hongkong which are Taels 121,328,507 for 1888, Taels 118,046,381 in 1889, and Taels 123,844,000 for 1890. Thus the value of our trade with China actually increased last year by more than Taels 3,000,000 as compared with 1888 and by over Taels 7,000,000 (or about £1,750,000 sterling) as compared with 1889. As also indicating that the volume of trade is not decreasing I may mention that from a return furnished by the Registrar-General, it appears that in the first three months of this year 174 Chinese shops were closed and 236 opened, showing a favourable balance of 62, and though owing to my being unable to get the similar return for former years I do not count this balance as *proof* of increase, I think the figures at least suggest the probability that Chinese trade is not failing off.

Turning now to the matter of Bank deposits I see as little reason for alarm or despondency. Having requested information on the subject from the four British Banks in the colony, the answers obtained from three of them show that as regards them, there has been not a decrease but an increase of deposits to the extent of over \$800,000. The only one of the four which returns a decrease, the amount of which is not stated, is the Bank under the management of the honourable member, who in replying to my letter as Manager reiterates his statement made as member of Council in respect of the decrease of "millions of dollars," but in this instance limits it to Chinese banks. Now on this matter of Chinese, banks I have made enquiries from high authorities, banking and others, as well as from the Registrar General. The estimates thus received are very considerably in amount, but I am most inclined to that of Mr. Wei Yuk, comprare of the Chartered Mercantile Bank, not only because it is the result of a careful enquiry at each of the Banks referred to but because it represents a mean between the extreme estimates on either side. According to his calculation the aggregate decrease of deposits in the Chinese banks as compared with 1889 is about \$1,000,000, the figures being \$6,000,000 for 1889 and \$5,000,000 for the year 1890. Deducing from this decrease the \$800,000 increase in the British banks, there is left \$200,000 so that there requires the large decrease of \$1,000,000 in some unaccountable quarter to make up the two millions which would be the minimum amount to justify the honourable member's indefinite statement as to "millions" of decrease.

I should mention that the Registrar General in forwarding his estimate of Chinese bank deposits accompanies it with the statement that despite all losses, money is at present plentiful among the Chinese, and that the rate of interest among them just now is 12 per cent. per month or 36 per cent. being scarcely over 5 per cent. per annum and is even lower than the rate among Europeans.

Now as regards land, which the honourable member says has fallen greatly in value, I do not doubt that as regards a considerable area of the less valuable land of the colony, there has been considerable depreciation by comparison with the inflated prices of 1889, but I question whether there has been any depreciation at all as regards what is of incomparably greater importance, viz.: the large area of specially valuable land in Victoria. For though a seller of such land might not as readily obtain the same price as in 1889, I have reason to doubt whether, unless under exceptional circumstances, the price to a buyer would be any less now than then. On this point I will read what is said to me by a gentleman, whose position is one likely to render him specially well acquainted with the subject:—"The value of Marine and Inland Lots has not in my opinion declined since 1888. The intrinsic values of town and suburban lots have increased within the last two years to the extent of \$2,000,000 at the least by new buildings and improvements. Even where no improvements have been effected no house property is likely to be asked to pay for what has hitherto been obtained free or for a comparatively small payment, I do not think there would be a great demand for a contribution, which is after all but a small proportion of the cost of defence, if it were understood that our fellow-countrymen at home are far more heavily taxed than we are, and it were born in mind that they are alone paying the debt which enabled Great Britain and her people all over the world to maintain their independence of foreign domination, and bear, moreover, not only the whole cost of their own defence but in a very large proportion the cost of Colonial defence also."

And now as regards the financial position. When I read the honourable member's speech I at first intended to supply in detail the results of an exhaustive examination of this subject; but this is now impossible consistently with the performance of work absolutely necessary to be done in the short time before my departure, and any regret I might feel on this score is much lessened by the consideration that for reasons above given a general discussion on the financial position is only to an extremely limited extent pertinent to this subject of salaries, and that it and for other reasons better postponed until the consideration of the Estimates for 1891. I am able, however, to say enough to render it clear that our financial position, though not wholly satisfactory, is not one which gives any more reason for alarm and despondency than the general condition of the Colony. I observe the honourable member states that according to the latest official information there will at the end of the year be a deficit in our finances of \$100,000. Presuming him correct, or as I think very possibly under the mark, I need scarcely say that such a statement without explanation gives a very wrong impression to the outside world; inasmuch as it leaves entirely out of sight not only the enormous sums which have in the last few years been expended out of revenue upon public works elsewhere ordinarily provided for by loan, but also omits to notice (which is for the purpose more important) that \$500,000 of this year's expenditure which is estimated to cause this deficit, is also for Extraordinary Public Works. Allowing for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue (as to which however I should mention that the great fall in assessed taxes anticipated by the honourable member is, I understand, in fact not likely to exceed 25 per cent), allowing however, I say, for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue, and in the matter of expenditure for the increased Military Contribution, and for the payment under the new instructions during the current year of December salaries (amounting to some \$60,000) which in previous years have been paid in the following January, I am of opinion, as previously stated, that the deficit will at the end of this year be considerably more than the \$100,000 mentioned by the honourable member, if the full amount of \$300,000 were to be expended on Extraordinary Public Works. But judging from the rate at which the Department works I am disposed to think that this estimate of expenditure would have been considerably beyond the mark in any circumstances. And in view of the fact that some new works, such as the Governor's Peak Residence (the prosecution of which I abandoned immediately after my return to the colony), will not be proceeded with for the present, and that there has been a temporary cessation of all new public works in consequence of the recent telegram from the Secretary of State, I question whether at the end of the year there will be more than a very small deficit, even if I scarcely anticipate the whole increase of salaries voted by the Council should be approved by the Secretary of State. As on the other hand there is likely to be little or none left

of the colony if, as is probable, it should shortly become necessary to raise a loan for Public Works.

After giving various reasons why the revenue was likely to dwindle, and why presumably it would be confined to its present sources, it would be insufficient to meet existing charges on it, he proceeds to say that the taxes are already very high, and that though rates at 12 per cent. on the rental appear moderate, will sanction a loan for public works such as in every one of the larger dependencies of the Crown would have been raised long ago. What should be the amount of such a loan I will not undertake to estimate. It of course, depends on the extent of the public works which it may be determined to undertake. But I may mention that from statistics furnished to me, I estimate at \$50,000 the increase revenue from the New Central Market, from the new extended depots for cattle, sheep and swine, and from the public laundries, and at \$1,000 that from the New Water Distribution Works; making, together, \$6,000; so that from these sources alone there would be sufficient to pay interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund on a loan of \$1,220,000 at 4 per cent.

of our surplus balances, there would in all probability be a considerable deficit by the end of next year, if we continue to draw out of Revenue, the great drainage and water distribution works now in progress. This, however, is not likely, and there is every reason to believe that the Secretary of State, when he has been placed in a position to estimate the condition of affairs, will sanction a loan for public works such as in every one of the larger dependencies of the Crown would have been raised long ago. What should be the amount of such a loan I will not undertake to estimate. It of course, depends on the extent of the public works which it may be determined to undertake. But I may mention that from statistics furnished to me, I estimate at \$50,000 the increase revenue from the New Central Market, from the new extended depots for cattle, sheep and swine, and from the public laundries, and at \$1,000 that from the New Water Distribution Works; making, together, \$6,000; so that from these sources alone there would be sufficient to pay interest and 1 per cent. sinking fund on a loan of \$1,220,000 at 4 per cent.

All things considered therefore, though I am by no means sure that some of the increases of salaries do not require re-consideration, I am completely satisfied that with a very moderate loan for public works and in the absence of circumstances impossible to foresee, there is every reason to believe that the ordinary revenue from its present sources will be sufficient to cover the salaries, as increased by the vote last October, as well as the increased Military Contribution.

As regards the future, though there may be expected some loss, in the next sale of the Opium Farm as compared with the large sum obtained for it under exceptional circumstances in 1889 (being some \$7,000,000 per annum higher than previously), there is good reason for anticipating advances in other directions: (1) If at this time of exceptional depression (from which the facts above referred to seem to indicate the beginning of improvement), the assessed taxes should prove to have fallen off as estimated only 21 per cent, I venture to think in view of the increasing general trade that there is good reason for believing that this loss will be very quickly compensated by return to a normal condition, even if there should not be, as I confidently anticipate, a further upward progress in prosperity. (2) The revenue from profit in subsidiary coinage, so far from showing any signs of diminution tends steadily to increase. Owing to the exceptional demand for these coins, notwithstanding the institution of the Canton mint, I have been compelled to raise from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 the annual regulation upon the Crown Agents; and if the Mint should be able to supply with this source for this year will be at least \$900,000. (3) Rent from land must continue to increase in amount as further land is sold, and will even make a considerable advance this year. Indeed the permanent revenue from this source will mount very rapidly, if, as I most sincerely hope, the policy should be maintained of permitting the commutation for increased rent of a considerable portion of the premiums. There will always be a strong temptation to abandon such a policy at a time like the present, when the current account is running low, but I am confident that it is the only sound policy, and that, if steadily maintained, it will in the course of not many years render it possible to considerably diminish the weight of taxation. And while referring to this source for this year will be at least \$900,000.

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From further enquiry into this question (which I may mention only suggested itself to me on spur of the moment), I have been led to believe that any apprehension on this score may be entirely dismissed. Without troubling you with all the reasons which have induced this more favourable view, I may mention the principal one at being that the large size of the steamers which are ordinarily required to bring goods from Europe and America, would render it impossible for them to conduct coasting work on any large scale at a profit, and that consequently a distributing centre, such as Hongkong and for which no other port would afford anything like equal facilities, is an absolute necessity. And I am further told and believe that the present tonnage due may be very considerably increased, and might be made something much more nearly approaching the average of other ports, and yet all, or nearly all, the vessels which now come here will still have to come here, inasmuch as they are not coming here would cause their loss considerably greater than the increased tax. Whether this view is completely correct, I cannot say; but I believe there is at all events sufficient truth in it to suggest the consideration whether additional revenue might not be raised, or whether, with the revenue remaining at the same amount, the incidence of taxation might not be more fairly distributed to the relief of the rate-payers. Attention was lately drawn by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and by the latest official information there will at the end of the year be a deficit in our finances of \$100,000. Presuming him correct, or as I think very possibly under the mark, I need scarcely say that such a statement without explanation gives a very wrong impression to the outside world; inasmuch as it leaves entirely out of sight not only the enormous sums which have in the last few years been expended out of revenue upon public works elsewhere ordinarily provided for by loan, but also omits to notice (which is for the purpose more important) that \$500,000 of this year's expenditure which is estimated to cause this deficit, is also for Extraordinary Public Works. Allowing for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue (as to which however I should mention that the great fall in assessed taxes anticipated by the honourable member is, I understand, in fact not likely to exceed 25 per cent), allowing however, I say, for a considerable falling off in certain items of revenue, and in the matter of expenditure for the increased Military Contribution, and for the payment under the new instructions during the current year of December salaries (amounting to some \$60,000) which in previous years have been paid in the following January, I am of opinion, as previously stated, that the deficit will at the end of this year be considerably more than the \$100,000 mentioned by the honourable member, if the full amount of \$300,000 were to be expended on Extraordinary Public Works. But judging from the rate at which the Department works I am disposed to think that this estimate of expenditure would have been considerably beyond the mark in any circumstances. And in view of the fact that some new works, such as the Governor's Peak Residence (the prosecution of which I abandoned immediately after my return to the colony), will not be proceeded with for the present, and that there has been a temporary cessation of all new public works in consequence of the recent telegram from the Secretary of State, I question whether at the end of the year there will be more than a very small deficit, even if I scarcely anticipate the whole increase of salaries voted by the Council should be approved by the Secretary of State. As on the other hand there is likely to be little or none left

#### OUR WATER-SUPPLY.

Mr. F. A. Cooper, Water Authority, informed a representative of the *Telegraph* this afternoon (29th inst.) that the water in the Tyam reservoirs, not being diminished by the new system of supply adopted since yesterday—i.e., one hour's supply in all the principal districts throughout the Colony, it may therefore be taken for granted that no further reduction in the supply to the city will be necessary, and that we can hold out for an almost indefinite period as we are now going. He contradicted the rumour that the Government had chartered several steamers for the purpose of supplying condensed water to a portion of the colony—such a step being unnecessary so long as the daily supply from Tyam does not diminish the reserve appreciably.

#### FOOCHOW.

April 29th.

After all, the amount of treasure sent up country for the new leaf to date has already reached the handsome sum of \$1,600,000. We can safely say that there is only half of the usual number of buyers in the hills this season, therefore prices must undoubtedly be lower than those of last year.

As it is now necessary that all intending opium growers obtain a license from the Government—besides taxes on the land and the opium—many planters have given up the idea of planting poppy, as they fear, and justly too, that more trouble than profit will be the result of their labours in the new enterprise.

Opium owing to the bad state of the weather during the last few days, the price of rice has gone up some ten cents a picul. The authorities should look into the matter and devise some rules and regulations for the sale of this great article of food of the whole Empire. Many of these attempts to raise the price of this necessary article of food are the work of the retail dealers alone.

The fire that broke out last Saturday night over the "long bridge" was not, as was supposed, of small significance; some two hundred houses and 500 people were destroyed. On Wednesday about noon the second of the usual series of fires broke out at a cookshop just above the bridge, on the Nantai side of the river. Luckily, however, it happened in the daytime and was therefore more promptly tackled than at night. The first fire-engine on the scene was brought over the bridge from the district magistrate's garden, another arrived from a foreign Hongkong, and both did good work. About one hundred houses bounding the river, the east godowns, and the fire walls at Masses, Ho Lee & Co.'s, and the Ningpo Club, "joss" houses were burnt. The "josses" were taken out of the "joss-house" with great alacrity, but unfortunately, in the crowded labyrinth of houses, destroyed, four men and three men lost their lives. The Prefect, Magistrate, and their hook and ladder companies, did good service in arresting the spread of the fire, and also in keeping the crowd of ruffians that usually assemble at fires, in order.

Respecting the latter fire an eyewitness writes:—"I noticed one fact which may possibly have been overlooked or not properly recognised by others. Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.'s fire engine arrived on the scene very promptly after the commencement of the fire, and after the approach to the scene was densely crowded with Chinese, this engine, in a very short space of time, was safely piloted to an advantageous position, was a strong temptation to abandon such a policy at a time like the present, when the current account is running low, but I am confident that it is the only sound policy, and that, if steadily maintained, it will in the course of not many years render it possible to considerably diminish the weight of taxation. This was due to the energy of Mr. Brand. He was protecting the interests of the Hongkong Fire Insurance and certainly deserves sincere thanks from that Company. A solitary European forcing his way through the crowd of ruffians and cut-throats, which is always present at a fire in Foochow, is not in an enviable position, nor is the risk to his life small."—E.A.

#### FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

KELUNG, April 4th.